

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1803

ANSWERED ON:07.03.2011

INCREASING THE SALARIES OF ANGANWADI WORKERS

Anuragi Shri Ghansyam ;Kishor Shri Kamal ;Manjhi Shri Hari;Naik Shri Shripad Yesso;Patil Shri A.T. Nana;Reddy Shri Komatireddy Raj Gopal;Sugavanam Shri E.G.;Yadav Shri Om Prakash

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to increase the salary/ honorarium/ minimum wages of the employees working in Anganwadi kendras at par with the Government servants;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of State Government which are facing difficulties in providing supplementary nutrition to children and the measures taken by the Government to remove the such difficulties;

(d) whether the Government has conducted some study to review the functioning of Anganwadi programmes in various States including Bihar in the recent past; and

(e) if so the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT(SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH)

(a) & (b): ICDS Scheme envisages Anganwadi Workers as honorary workers from local community who can render their services on a part-time basis. The Scheme provides that they would be paid a fixed amount of honoraria per month as may be decided by the Government from time to time. Being honorary workers, they are neither govt. servant nor does the Minimum Wages Act apply to them.

The honoraria of AWWs has been enhanced by Rs.500/- per month on the last honorarium drawn by them and that of AWHs and Workers of Mini-AWCs by Rs.250/- per month w.e.f 1.4.2008. Further enhancement has been announced by the Finance Minister in the Budget Speech of 2011-12.

(c): Some of the difficulties faced by State Governments/ UTs in providing Supplementary Nutrition to children include inability to meet the prescribed calorific norms due to price escalation; inability to fortify THR through SHGs with micro-nutrients and compliance with norms and standards; engagement of Self Help Groups (SHGs) for supply of SNP as well as monitoring of the SHGs for quality, regular supply and financial regularity which is difficult. Wrongly equating contractors with experienced, technically and financially capable manufacturers in preparation of fortified and appropriate THR.

These difficulties have also been placed before the Apex Court by the States in their Affidavits in WP No.196/2001 PUCL vs UOI and others.

(d) & (e): A study has been commissioned by the Planning Commission on Evaluation of ICDS Scheme, through National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER). They have submitted a draft Report to the Planning Commission.