

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2666
ANSWERED ON:07.02.2014
SALARY TO VOLUNTEERS
Kateel Shri Nalin Kumar

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

- (a) whether the Government has fixed any remuneration to volunteers in villages who look after pregnant women and lactating mothers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the said volunteers have been paid their due salary during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The pregnant women and lactating mothers (P&LM) in villages are looked after by the field functionaries i.e. Auxillary Nurse Midwife (ANM) and Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) under the National Health Mission (NHM) and Anganwadi Worker (AWW) under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme at the Anganwadi Centre (AWC).

ASHA with AWW help pregnant women for early registration, ensure four ANC's, TT immunization and IFA consumption, counseling for IFA compliance and birth preparedness, counseling on early initiation of breastfeeding, monitor pregnant women and in case of danger signs provide prompt support and referral, arrange for free referral transport, accompany pregnant women and ensure recording of birth weight and initiation of breastfeeding within one hour of birth, etc. ASHA is incentivized to promote institutional deliveries. She is paid performance linked incentives and is not paid wages.

ANM who looks after the pregnant women and lactating mother is a regular employee of the State Government/UT Administration. She is paid salary as per the scale of pay sanctioned for the post.

The AWW under the ICDS Scheme is an honorary worker and is responsible for providing supplementary nutrition in the form of THR to P&L mothers, their counseling on diet, rest and importance and monitoring of weight gain, refer those cases to health facilities in consultation with ANM where there is any visible danger sign. She also arranges Village Health & Nutrition Day. She is paid monthly honorarium under the scheme, which at present is Rs.3000/- p.m. In addition, States/UTs also provide additional honorarium to the AWW from their sources.

(c) to (e): Under ICDS Scheme, the grants-in-aid released to the States/UTs as ICDS (General) is meant inter-alia for payment of honorarium to the honorary Anganwadi Workers and Helpers. A Statement indicating amount spent by States/UTs under honorarium head for Anganwadi Workers and Helpers during last three years and current year, as reported by States/UTs in their Statement of Expenditure is annexed.