

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3379

ANSWERED ON:12.12.2014

SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS TO ANGANWADI WORKERS

Pandey Dr. Mahendra Nath; Singh Shri Ravneet

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

- (a) the total number of Anganwadi workers in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the details of the jobs/works assigned to these workers along with the financial assistance including salary/remuneration/honorarium being paid/extended to them, State/UT-wise including Punjab;
- (c) whether the Government has taken note of/ received complaints of Anganwadi workers being assigned/additional works like those pertaining to Census, Polio Campaign etc. and if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government thereon, State/UT-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has any proposal to increase their honorarium/remuneration and bring their status at par with Government employees in terms of salary and other facilities, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether the Government has put in place any mechanism for providing access to Social Security benefits to Anganwadi workers in the country, if so, details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor along with the other steps being taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI)

(a): There are 12.88 lakh Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) working under the ICDS Scheme in the country. State / UT-wise details are at Annex-I.

(b): The details of the jobs/works assigned to Anganwadi Workers is at Annex-II.

Anganwadi Workers (AWWs), being honorary workers, are paid a monthly honoraria as decided by the Government from time to time. At present honorarium @ Rs.3000/-per month is paid to AWWs w.e.f. 11-07-2011. AWWs of Mini-AWCs are paid honorarium @ Rs.2250/- per month w.e.f. 04-07-2013. Most of the States/ UTs are also providing additional honorarium to AWWs from their own resources as per details given in Annexure-III.

(c): The ICDS Scheme is a centrally sponsored Scheme being implemented by the States/UTs. States/UTs have been requested time and again that ICDS functionaries should not be utilized for non-ICDS work to enable them to devote time to the core activity of managing the AWCs. The Chief Election Commission has also been requested for exemption of the ICDS functionaries especially the AWWs from duties related to elections.

(d): Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme envisages the Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) & Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs) as "honorary workers" from the local community who come forward to render their services, on part time basis, in the area of child care and development. Being honorary workers, they are paid monthly honoraria as decided by Government from time to time. In a ruling of 7.12.2006 in Civil Appeal No.4953-4957 of 1998 – State of Karnataka & Ors. Vs. Ameerbi & Ors, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has held that AWWs and AWHs do not hold any civil post and Minimum

Wages Act is not applicable to them. Therefore, in view of the very nature of the role of AWWs and AWHs in the Integrated Child Development Scheme, these functionaries cannot be declared as "Government employees" or brought at par with Government employees. The honorarium of AWWs/AWHs has been increased from time to time and the last time it was increased in 2011 for AWWs/AWHs and in 2013 for AWWs of mini AWCs. This is a continuing process.

(e): Under the Social Security benefits, the Government launched the Anganwadi Karyakartri Bima Yojana (AKBY) w.e.f 01-04-2004 in association with the Life Insurance Corporation of India as a welfare measure for the benefit of Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs). The Scheme is operated through the Social Security Group Scheme of LIC. The salient features of the AKBY are as under:-

- i) The Scheme is applicable to all AWWs and AWHs in the age group of 18-59 years;
- ii) The premium under the Scheme is Rs.280/- per annum per member. The breakup is as under:-

Rs.100/- from Social Security Fund of LIC
Rs.100/- by the Government of India
Rs.80/- by the Anganwadi Worker/ Helper (additional for male critical illness of the insured member). The premium of Rs.80/- payable by these workers towards critical illness has been waived off till 31-03-2015.

iii) The Scheme provides the following benefits:-

Natural Death Rs.30,000/-
Accident benefit:
Death/ Total permanent disability Rs.75000
Partial Permanent disability Rs.37500

Female Critical Illness (FCI) Benefits: An amount of Rs.20,000/- is payable on the diagnosis of invasive cancers (malignant tumour) manifest in the following organs (subject to proof of affliction satisfactory to Corporation).

Breast
Cervix Uteri
Corpus Uteri
Ovaries
Fallopian Tubes
Vaginal/Vulva

ShikshaSahayogYojana

A free add-on scholarship benefit is available for the children of AWWs and AWHs. Scholarship of Rs.300/- per quarter for students 9th to 12 Standard (including ITI courses) is available but it is limited to two children per family. Apart from the honorarium and the AKBY, the following facilities are also being extended to AWWs/AWHs:

20 days casual leave per year
Paid absence on maternity of 180 days
Provision of uniform and name badge
Reservation of 25% of vacant posts of Supervisors for Anganwadi Workers
Recruitment of 25 % of Anganwadi Workers from amongst AWHs