

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3352
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2014
ANGANWADI WORKERS HELPERS
Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram ;Reddy Shri Ponguleti Srinivasa

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

- (a) the mechanism put in place by the Government for monitoring of compliance of their orders by the States / UTs pertaining to improvement of working conditions of Anganwadi Workers/Helpers and their duties in the country;
- (b) the amount of remuneration/honorarium being paid to Anganwadi workers/helpers;
- (c) whether the Government proposes or has any proposal to increase the remuneration/honorarium being paid to them and to bring their status at par with the Government employees in terms of salary and other facilities and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has received any request/demand/suggestion from any quarter including Anganwadi workers in this regard and if so, the details thereof along with the action taken/being taken by the Government thereon; and
- (e) the other corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government in this direction?

Answer

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

(a): Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme being implemented by the State Governments/UT Administrations. While Central Government is responsible for policy making and programme planning, State Governments /UT Administrations are responsible for implementation of ICDS Scheme.

The Government of India, from time to time, issues guidelines for implementation of ICDS Scheme. As implementing agency, States/UTs are to follow these guidelines in course of implementation of ICDS Scheme. Any instance of non-compliance of such guidelines by the States/UTs, as and when brought to the notice of the Government of India, is taken up with them. Implementation of ICDS Scheme, especially concerning improvement of working conditions of Anganwadi Workers/Helpers and their duties in the country is discussed with the States/UTs in review meetings from time to time.

(b) &(c): Presently, Anganwadi Workers and Helpers are paid honorarium of Rs. 3000/- per month and Rs.1500/- per month respectively w.e.f. 01-04-2011. The honorarium of Anganwadi Workers of Mini- Anganwadi Centres has recently been revised to Rs.2250/- per month w.e.f. 04-07-2013. Apart from these, additional amount of honoraria are also paid by most of the State Governments / UT Administrations from their own resources.

There is no proposal under consideration to increase the honorarium of Anganwadi Workers and Anganwadi Helpers or accord them the status at par with the government employees.

(d): Government has been receiving request / demand / suggestion from various quarters including Anganwadi Workers for enhancement in their honorarium and according them the status at par with the government employees in term of salary and other facilities.

Since Anganwadi Workers and Anganwadi Helpers are honorary workers, they cannot be declared as government employees. Further, in a ruling of

712.2006 in Civil Appeal No.4953-4957 of 1998 – State of Karnataka & Ors. Vs. Ameerbi & Ors.,the Hon'ble Supreme Court has also held that Anganwadi Workers/Anganwadi Helpers do not hold any civil post.

(e): The Central government has been endeavouring its best to secure greater benefits to Anganwadi Workers/Anganwadi Helpers. Continuous efforts have been made to improve their working conditions by extending facilities such as paid absence on maternity, insurance cover under 'Anganwadi Karyakartri Bima Yojana', reservation of 25% of vacant posts of Supervisors for Anganwadi workers, recruitment of 25% of Anganwadi workers from Angnawadi Helpers, uniform and name badge to AWWs/AWHs and award to Anganwadi Workers.