

Since AWWs and AWHs are honorary workers, they cannot be declared as Govt. employees. 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 also held that Anganwadi Workers and Anganwadi Helpers do not hold any civil post and Minimum Wages Act is also not applicable to them.

Deaths due to malnutrition

†2017. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who have died due to malnutrition in the country during the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the number of children below five years along with the women in the age group of 15 to 45 years and higher age groups among the deceased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) and (b) Data on the number of deaths due to malnutrition in the country is not maintained centrally. The survey on 'Causes of Death - 2001-03 in India' conducted by Registrar General of India reveals that 2.8% of death of children aged 0-4 years is due to nutritional deficiencies. The major causes of death of children below 4 years are perinatal conditions (33%), respiratory infections (22%), diarrheal diseases (14%), other infections and parasitic diseases (11%), accounting for 80% of the deaths in this age group. Malnutrition is not a direct cause of death but contributes to increased morbidity and mortality by reducing resistance to infections.

National Policy for Women

2018. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry plans to have any National Policy for Women exclusively so as to empower them and protect their rights;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the exclusive women policy is a decade old one when the last national policy on women was framed along with the reasons for such a long gap in framing such policy?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) to (c) The Government had adopted the National Policy for Empowerment of Women on 20th March, 2001 with the objective to bring about the advancement, development and empowerment of women and to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women. The policies/programmes of the Government are all directed towards achieving inclusive growth with special focus on women in line with the objective of the National Policy for Empowerment of Women.

Given the long term nature of issues which impact on women, need was felt to strengthen the processes that promote all-round development of women by focussing on a coordinated approach for implementation of the schemes of the concerned Ministries/Departments and by creating an enabling environment conducive to social change. With this in view, the Government has set up National Mission for Empowerment of Women on 08.03.2010 with the objective of convergence of schemes/programmes of different Ministries/Departments of Government of India as well as State Governments/UT Administrations. The Government also has constituted a High Level Committee for study of the Status of Women in the country since 1989, the mandate of which *inter-alia*, includes measures evolving appropriate policy interventions based on a contemporary assessment of Women's needs.

Working of Anganwadi Centres

2019. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Anganwadi and mini-Anganwadi Centres, State-wise;
- (b) how many of them are having basic facilities like drinking water, toilets, building, kitchen, etc. along with their staff statistics and pay-structure; State-wise;
- (c) the malnutrition statistics of child and women, State-wise;
- (d) whether Government has received complaints regarding supply of poor quality nutrition in Anganwadi Centres, and if so, the action taken thereon; and
- (e) whether these centres have failed to curb malnutrition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) and (b) As on 30.09.2013, 13.40 lakh Anganwadi and mini-Anganwadi Centres (AWCs/mini-AWCs) are functioning