

(b) whether the Ministry would consider to appoint a flying squad or a special team to conduct inspection in various State and Central authorities, private office and companies for noncompliance of the provisions under the Sexual Harassment Act; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI): (a) The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 mandates constitution of Internal Complaint Committee (ICC) in all workplace having more than 10 workers for receiving complaints of sexual harassment. Section 23 of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 casts the responsibility on the appropriate Government to monitor the implementation of this Act.

Ministry of Women and Child Development has been informed that all the Central Ministries/Department except Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space. has constituted Internal Complaint Committee in their Offices.

(b) and (c) There is no such proposal to appoint a flying squad or a special team in this regard.

Anganwadi workers as regular employees

538. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is taking measures to include the anganwadi workers as regular employees;

(b) if so, what are the social security benefits to be made available to them and what would be the increment in wages; and

(c) if not, what measures are being taken to extend social security benefits including pension and healthcare to the anganwadi workers and helpers?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI): (a) to (c) At present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to include the Anganwadi Workers as regular employees. Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme envisages the Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and 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 view of the

very nature of the role of AWWs and AWHs in the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme, these functionaries cannot be declared as Government employees.

Since AWWs are honorary workers, the benefits like pension are not applicable to them.

Presently, AWWs and AWHs are paid honoraria @ ₹ 3000/- and ₹ 1500/- per month respectively *w.e.f.* 01.04.2011. AWWs of Mini-AWCs are being paid honoraria @ ₹ 2250/- *w.e.f.* 04.07.2013. Apart from these, monetary incentives are paid by most of the State Governments/UT Administrations from their own resources.

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 (LIC) 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 ₹ 280/- per annum per member. The breakup is as under:-
 - ₹ 100/- from Social Security Fund of LIC
 - ₹ 100/- by the Government of India
 - ₹ 80/- by the Anganwadi Worker/Helper (additional for male critical illness of the insured member). The premium of ₹ 80/- payable by these workers towards critical illness has been waived off till 31.03.2017.
- (iii) The Scheme provides the following compensation:-
 - Natural Death ₹ 30,000/-
 - Accident benefit:
 - (a) Death/Total permanent disability ₹ 75,000/-
 - (b) Partial Permanent disability ₹ 37,500/-
 - Female Critical Illness (FCI) Benefits: An amount of ₹ 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).
 - (a) Breast

- (b) Cervix Uteri
- (c) Corpus Uteri
- (d) Ovaries
- (e) Fallopian Tubes
- (f) Vaginal/Vulva

- Shiksha Sahayog Yojana

A free add-on scholarship benefit is available for the children of AWWs and AWHs. Scholarship of ₹ 300/- per quarter for students of 9th to 12th Standard (including ITI courses) is available but it is limited to two children per family.

India Exclusion Report 2015

539. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has taken cognizance of India Exclusion Report 2015 which highlights the plight of separated/divorced/widowed women across India;

(b) whether the Ministry has carried out any study to understand the social and economic hardships being faced by divorced/separated/widowed women;

(c) if so, findings of such study, if not, the reasons for not carrying out such a study;

(d) whether the Ministry runs any schemes specifically targeted towards empowerment of divorced/widowed/separated women; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI): (a) There is no such information on the report with the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

(b) and (c) The High Level Committee constituted to undertake comprehensive study on status of Women in the Country *inter-alia* given certain recommendation on status of separated/divorced/widowed women across India which has been suitably included in the draft National Policy for Women, 2016.

(d) and (e) The Ministry of Women and Child Development is administering various Schemes such as Swadhar Greh, Working Women Hostels, Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP), Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK), National