

it has been envisaged that One Stop Centres would be set up across the country in phased manner. In the first phase, one Centre was sanctioned per State/UT. Further, 150 additional Centres are taken up in second phase during 2016-17. The Ministry has approved all the proposals received from States/UTs. However, no proposal was received from Government of NCT of Delhi

(c) and (d) The Ministry has approved Scheme for setting up One Stop Centre to support women-affected by violence. The scheme aims to facilitate access to an integrated range of services including medical aid, police assistance, legal aid/case management, psycho-social counselling, temporary support services to women affected by violence.

Increase in sexual harassment cases

1917. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for increase in the number of cases of sexual harassment, exploitation of women in various professions and rape cases in rural and urban areas of the country; and

(b) the preventive and punitive actions proposed by the Ministry to protect the victims and punish the guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHANA RAJ): (a) There are many reasons behind increasing crimes against the women such as unequal economic, social and political status of women which is an outcome of deeply rooted patriarchal social construes.

(b) Safety of women in the country is of utmost priority for the Government. The Government is endeavouring to put in place effective mechanisms to provide safe environment for women. The Criminal Law (Amendment), Act 2013 has been enacted making the punishment more stringent for offences like rape. Provision for increased penalty for gang rape and causing serious injury to the victim resulting her to remain in a vegetative state have been made. New offences like acid attack, sexual harassment, voyeurism and stalking, disrobing a woman have been incorporated in the Indian Penal Code. Government has also enacted the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 to provide a safe and secure environment to women at the workplace.

Apart from the above, Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing scheme of One Stop Centre to provide integrated support and assistance to women affected by violence including sexual harassment. The scheme aims to facilitate

access to an integrated range of services including medical aid, police assistance, legal aid/case management, psycho-social counselling, temporary support services to women affected by violence. Further, scheme for Universalisation of Women Helpline intended to provide 24 hours immediate and emergency response to women affected by violence including sexual harassment.

Regularisation of Anganwadi workers

1918. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is thinking to regularise Anganwadi workers all over India;

(b) whether there is any similarity in payment of honorarium for Anganwadi workers, if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to streamline payment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ): (a) No, Sir. Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme envisages the Anganwadi Workers and Helpers 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.

Since Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs) are honorary workers, they cannot be declared as Government employees. Further, in a ruling of 07.12.2006 in Civil Appeal No. 4953-4957 of 1998—State of Karnataka and Ors. *Vs.* Ameerbi and Ors., the Hon’ble Supreme Court has also held that Anganwadi Workers/Anganwadi Helpers do not hold any civil post and Minimum Wages Act is not applicable to them.

(b) Being honorary workers, the Anganwadi Workers and Anganwadi Helpers across the country are paid fixed honorarium per month as decided by the Government. Presently, AWWs and AWHs are paid Honoraria of ₹ 3000/- and ₹ 1500/-per month respectively *w.e.f.* 01.04.2011. AWWs of Mini-AWCs are being paid honoraria of ₹ 2250/- *w.e.f.* 04.07.2013. The honorarium paid by the Centre to all AWWs/AWHs is similar. However, the additional honorarium paid by the States/UTs from their funds varies from State to State depending on their financial sources. Details are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) To streamline the payment, the Government of India has asked States/UTs to prepare data base of AWWs/AWHs for payment of honorarium to the Anganwadi