

**Honorarium for 'ASHA' and anganwadi workers**

587. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently hiked the incentives/honorarium for ASHA and Anganwadi workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the hike would be made retrospective from the last one year and arrears paid accordingly to meet the demands of these workers;

(d) whether any social security schemes like insurance cover is provided to them; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The Government of India has recently enhanced the honorarium of Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) at main-Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) from ₹ 3,000/- to ₹ 4,500/- per month; AWWs at mini-AWCs from ₹ 2,250/- to ₹ 3,500/- per month; Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs) from ₹ 1,500/- to ₹ 2,250/- per month; and introduced performance linked incentive of ₹ 250/- per month to AWHs, effective from 1st October, 2018.

With regard to Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs), under the National Health Mission (NHM), as approved by the Cabinet, ASHAs are envisaged as honorary volunteers and receive only task/performance based incentives. Currently ASHAs receive performance based incentives for over 30 specific tasks that have been approved at the national level. Given their contribution and the valuable role they play, the incentives finalized for ASHAs at the national level are regularly reviewed by the Government and new activities for which ASHAs would get incentives are expanded from time to time. The range of incentives earned by an ASHA varies from ASHA to ASHA based on their level of activity.

Under the NHM, States have been given the flexibility to design their own incentives for ASHAs. Some States have also introduced state specific incentives as per State specific requirement. Some States have also introduced fixed monthly honorarium for ASHAs out of their State budget. These include States like Sikkim (₹ 3,000/- p.m.), Kerala (₹ 1,500/- p.m.), Rajasthan (₹ 1,600/- p.m.), Haryana (₹ 500/- p.m.) and West Bengal (₹ 1,500/- p.m.). States of Karnataka, and Meghalaya, provide 100% while Chhattisgarh provides 50% and Tripura provides 33% of matching amount of the incentives earned by an ASHA as a top up.

(d) and (e) The Government of India introduced 'Anganwadi Karyakartri Bima Yojana' (AKBY) to Anganwadi Workers/Anganwadi Helpers w.e.f. 01.04.2004 under Life Insurance Corporation's Social Security Scheme.

Pursuant to the decision of the Government to migrate the existing insurance schemes to the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), the AWWs in the age group of 18 to 50 years have been covered under Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) for life cover of ₹ 2.00 Lakh; the AWWs in the age group of 18-59 years have been covered under Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) for accidental cover of ₹ 2.00 Lakh/ ₹ 1.00 Lakh and the AWWs/AWHs in the age group of 51 to 59 years have been covered under the Anganwadi Karyakarti Bima Yojana (AKBY) {modified} for life cover of ₹ 30,000/- as long as they are engaged. The migration to PMJJBY/PMSBY is effective from 01.06.2017. Female Critical Illness benefits of ₹ 20,000/- to AWWs/AWHs and scholarships @ ₹ 300/- per child per quarter to children (Standard 9 to 12 including ITI during Academic Year 2017-18) to children of AWWs/AWHs will continue. The entire premium is borne by the MWCD and LIC of India.

#### **Swadhar greh scheme**

†588. SHRIMATI KANTA KARDAM: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of Swadhar Greh scheme being implemented by Government for the benefit of women living in adverse conditions and details of funds allocated during the last three years, State-wise and area-wise;

(b) the number of Swadhar shelter homes and short stay homes being run in the country and the number of women benefited under this scheme; and

(c) the details of amount provided to such homes in Uttar Pradesh during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR): (a) The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing the Swadhar Greh Scheme which targets the women victims of difficult circumstances who are in need of institutional support for rehabilitation so that they could lead their life with dignity. The Scheme envisages providing shelter, food, clothing and health as well as economic and social security for the women victims of difficult circumstances which includes survivors of natural disasters, prisoners released from jail, victims of domestic violence etc. The State/ UT-wise details of funds released under the SwadharGreh Scheme during the last three years and current year is given in the Statement-I (See below).

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.