

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister is very knowledgeable. He comes well prepared. He speaks up to the point but he wants to share further information. But my problem is, I have to cover 15 Questions. Now, Question No. 110.

Poor financial condition of Anganwadi workers

*110. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Anganwadi Workers across the country are facing financial distress due to low wages;
- (b) if so, what steps the Ministry is taking to address this issue;
- (c) whether workers are provided with pension or ESI sards; and
- (d) if not, whether the Ministry has plans to implement such provisions?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Anganwadi Services [under Umbrella Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Schemes] envisages the Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) 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.

The Government has, recently, enhanced honorarium of AWWs from ₹ 3,000/- to ₹ 4,500/- per month; AWWs at mini-AWCs from ₹ 2,250/- to ₹ 3,500/- per month; AWHs from ₹ 1,500/- to ₹ 2,250/- per month. The Government has also introduced performance linked incentive of ₹ 250/- per month to AWHs effective from 1st October, 2018. AWWs are paid performance linked incentive of ₹ 500/- per month for using ICDS-CAS (Common Application Software) under POSHAN Abhiyaan.

Most of the States/UTs are also giving monetary incentives to these workers out of their own resources. Details of additional honorarium being paid by States/UTs to AWWs and AWHs are given in Annexure (*See below*).

In addition to the honorarium paid by the Government of India the AWWs/AWHs are also provided other benefits as given below:—

- (i) Paid absence of 180 days of maternity leave.
- (ii) Award of ₹ 50,000/- cash and a Citation at Central level and ₹ 10,000/- cash and a Citation at State level to motivate the Anganwadi Workers and give recognition to good voluntary work.
- (iii) A set of two Uniform (saree/suit @ ₹ 400/- per saree per annum).
- (iv) Coverage under Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) for AWWs/AWHs in the age group of 18-50 years;
- (v) Coverage under Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) for AWWs/AWHs in the age group of 51-59 years.
- (vi) Modified Anganwadi Karyakarti Bima Yojana (AKBY) for AWWs/AWHs in the age group of 51-59 years.
- (vii) Female Critical Illness benefits of ₹ 20,000/- on diagnosis of identified illness.
- (viii) Scholarships to their children studying in 9th to 12th Standard (including ITI courses).
- (ix) 50% reservation for AWWs in recruitment of supervisors

(c) and (d) AWWs/AWHs are honorary workers who come forward to render their services on payment of monthly honorarium. In view of the very nature of the role of Anganwadi Workers/Helpers, it is not feasible to declare them as regular/permanent employees. AWWs/AWHs are not provided with pension or ESI cards. Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in a ruling of 07.12.2006 in Civil Appeal No. 4853-4957 of 1998 - State of Karnataka & Ors. vs. Ameerbi & Ors. has held that Anganwadi Workers/Helpers do not hold any civil post.

Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Pension Scheme (PM-SYM) has been recently introduced by the Government for unorganised sectors in the country to ensure assured pension of ₹ 3000/- per month after attaining the age of 60 years. The age of entry to the Scheme is 18-40 years. The beneficiaries are required to make payment of age appropriate premium for availing the assured pension of ₹ 3,000/- per month on attaining the age of 60 years. The State Governments/UT Administrations have been requested to encourage eligible AWWs/AWHs to get themselves enrolled under the above scheme on voluntary basis in order to get assured monthly pension on attaining the age of 60 years.

Annexure

Details of additional honorarium given by the States/UTs to AWWs/AWHs from their own resources (as on 30.10.2019)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Additional honorarium given by States/UTs (in ₹)	
		Anganwadi Workers (AWWs)	Anganwadi Helper (AWHs)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	3000	2500
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1200	700
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil
4.	Assam	2000	1000
5.	Bihar	750	375
6.	Chandigarh	2000	1000
7.	Chhattisgarh	2000	1000
8.	Dadra Nagar Haveli	1000	600
9.	Daman and Diu	1000	600
10.	Delhi	6678	3339
11.	Goa	3062-11937*	3000-6000*
12.	Gujarat	3300	1700
13.	Haryana	7286-8429*	4215
14.	Himachal Pradesh	1750	900
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	600	340
16.	Jharkhand	1400	700
17.	Karnataka	5000	2500
18.	Kerala	2000	2000
19.	Lakshadweep	3000	2000
20.	Madhya Pradesh	7000	3500
21.	Maharashtra	2000	1000

1	2	3	4
22.	Manipur	100	50
23.	Meghalaya	Nil	Nil
24.	Odisha	1000	500
25.	Puducherry	600	300
26.	Punjab	2600	1300
27.	Rajasthan	1724-1736*	1065
28.	Sikkim	2225	1500
29.	Uttarakhand	3000	1500
30.	West Bengal	1300	1300
31.	Uttar Pradesh	1000	500
32.	Nagaland	Nil	Nil
33.	Mizoram	294-306*	150
34.	Tamil Nadu	6750 (that includes pay-2500, GP-500, & DA-3750)	4275 (that includes pay-1500, GP-400, & DA-2375)
35.	Telangana	6000	3750
36.	Tripura	2865	1924

* Depending on the qualification and/or number of years of service.

SHRIMD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Anganwadi and health workers have been demanding recognition as permanent workers and Government pension for a long time now. They are invaluable for providing education to children from weak socio-economic backgrounds and shoulder huge burdens. My question is, why does the Government think it fair to not provide them with pension and ESI benefits despite the critical services they provide?

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Sir, this issue was referred to the hon. Supreme Court. In the ruling of the hon. Supreme Court, in the Ameer Bi case, the Supreme Court itself looked at these aspects on behalf of the Centre and the State and said that they are honorary workers. However, to ensure that we give additional support, 180 days of paid absence leave is given as maternity benefit. We cover them under the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana. We cover them under the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana. We also incentivise better performances and use of modern technology.

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Sir, today, Anganwadi workers work on meagre honorariums which are not given on time. The Government promised an increase in budgetary allocations for Anganwadi services, but the 2019-20 Budget has fallen short of those promises. My question is: Why has the Government not allocated enough funds to this crucial service this year and ensured that honorariums are paid on time?

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: In fact, the hon. Member is a representative of a State where we have been comprehensively engaged with the State administration to ensure that payment is made digitally and on time. It depends on the State. There is absolutely no paucity of funds. In fact, if you look back at the funding expenditure with regard to their services, in the year 2011-12, it was around ₹ 14,000 crores; in 2018-19, it is above ₹ 16,000 crores.

श्रीमती छाया वर्मा: माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी के ध्यान में लाना चाहती हूँ कि आंगनवाड़ी और हेल्थ सहायिकाओं को जो मानदेय मिलता है, वह अलग-अलग राज्यों में भिन्न-भिन्न है। मैं उन्हें बताना चाहती हूँ कि किसी राज्य में वह 500 रुपए है और किसी में 6,000 रुपए है। मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री महोदया से जानना चाहती हूँ कि क्या इसमें एकरूपता लाने का कोई प्रयास किया जा रहा है? मेरा दूसरा प्रश्न है कि 60 वर्ष की आयु के पश्चात् उन्हें जो पेंशन मिलती है, क्या उसे कम से कम 5,000 रुपए करने पर विचार करेंगी?

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Sir, I would like to highlight here that they do not get ₹ 500. In fact, they get ₹ 4,500 plus incentives, like, I said, for organising community-based events and for using ICDS-CAS. In fact, with regard to the insurance or the pension coverage, we called a meeting with the LIC and we found that State Governments were not coming forth with the details with regard to the workers who were working at the grassroot, which, basically, gives a challenge when you have to pass on benefits like insurance to Anganwadi workers. Hence, we have appealed to all the States to ensure that they work in tandem with financial agencies to ensure better coverage.

प्रो. मनोज कुमार झा: सभापति महोदय, माननीय मंत्री महोदया से मेरा प्रश्न है कि इनके मानदेय में एकरूपता की बात कही जाती है, लेकिन अलग-अलग राज्यों में इसमें एकरूपता नहीं है। आंगनवाड़ी तथा 'आशा' वर्कर के माध्यम से हमारी अधिकांश योजनाएं चल रही हैं, तो क्या राज्य और केन्द्र मिलकर के ऐसी कोशिश करेंगे कि एक ऐसी व्यवस्था हो, जहां इनका मानदेय भी कम से कम 8,000 रुपए से 10,000 रुपए हो, ताकि वे एक सुचारु जिंदगी बसर कर सकें?

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Sir, on the 13th and 14th of November, we did converge our efforts with States, if States so desired that they can top up their needs or their desire with regard to payments made to honorary workers at the grassroot. It is

incumbent upon the State to take such a decision. But we have insisted, however, that the honorarium due should be paid on time and we have followed up personally with each State to ensure that the utilisation certificates are submitted on time to help facilitate this.

DR. NARENDRA JADHAV: Sir, the Anganwadi services form the backbone of our rural childcare programme and its primary beneficiaries are children, pregnant women and lactating mothers from vulnerable and impoverished strata of our society. Regrettably, despite the recommendations of 45th and 46th Indian Labour Conference, Anganwadi workers are not covered by labour legislations and are not entitled to minimum wages, pension and enrolment into EPF because their work is classified as 'voluntary'. Is the Government planning to take any steps to include the Anganwadi workers in the formal labour sector so that they are entitled to minimum wages, pension, enrolment in EPF and there is regularisation of their working conditions?

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Sir, it has been enunciated by me throughout the Question Hour today that there are considerations to be taken by the State Governments and we have, in our communication, impressed upon them to facilitate as many Anganwadi workers as possible. In fact, when it comes to supervisory positions, we have appealed to State Governments and notified rules so that 50 per cent of the supervisors come from amongst Anganwadi workers. Insofar as looking at their conditionality, apart from the challenges that we speak of in this House, today, I would like to also highlight so that we can join in applauding our frontline workers, that only in the month of October, Sir, anganwadi workers and frontline workers across the country weighed and measured the height of close to one crore fifty seven lakh forty three thousand nine hundred and twenty nine children and made the data available online. So, I take your permission, Sir, to thank them for their service. And the Labour scheme, the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan Dhan Pension Scheme is available even to the anganwadi workers, if they so desire.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q.No. 111.

Education of tribal population

*111. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various schemes being implemented in several tribal areas for the education of tribal population in Jharkhand along with the details of the funds allocated for the said purpose, scheme-wise; and