

**Allocation of funds to consulting agencies**

1415. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many consulting agencies have been attached with the Ministry and its affiliated bodies, the details thereof;

(b) the major works which have been accomplished by these agencies during the last five years; and

(c) amount allocated to these agencies during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Women and Child Development has engaged the services of two consultancy agencies to support implementation of Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Conditional Cash Transfer.

(c) The details of funds released to the consulting agencies during the year 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 are ₹ 58,78,000, ₹ 4,97,05,327, and ₹ 3,80,86,622 respectively.

1416. *The Question was cancelled.*

**Social security for AWWs, women and children during pandemic**

1417. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) are being provided social security benefits during the COVID-19 crisis, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) the measures taken by the Ministry to ensure availability of food to the children who benefitted from Mid Day Meal Scheme; and

(c) whether the Ministry has data pertaining to the use of Jan Aushadhi Kendras by women during the pandemic, if not, the steps ensured by the Ministry to make the Kendras easily accessible?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) Under the Social Security benefits, Anganwadi Workers (AWWs)/ Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs) are covered under the following Insurance Schemes:—

**Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY):** AWWs and AWHs in the age group of 18 to 50 years are covered under PMJJBY for life cover of ₹2.00 lakh (covers life risk, death due to any reason).

**Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY):** AWWs and AWHs in the age group of 18-59 years are covered under PMSBY for accident cover of ₹ 2.00 Lakh (for accidental death and permanent full disability) /₹1.00 Lakh (for partial but permanent disability).

**Anganwadi Karyakartri Bima Yojana (AKBY) (modified):** AWWs/AWHs in the age group of 51 to 59 years are covered under the AKBY (modified) as long as they are engaged for life cover of ₹30,000/- (covers life risk, death due to any reason).

AWWs/AWHs in the age group of 18-59 years are also provided Female Critical Illness %benefits of ₹20,000/- on diagnosis of identified illness {invasive cancers (malignant tumour) manifest in the organs viz. Breast, Cervix Uteri, Corpus Uteri, Ovaries, Fallopian Tubes and Vaginal/vulva} and scholarships to their children studying in 9th to 12th Standard (including ITI courses). Scholarship of ₹300/- per quarter per child is available for two children per family.

In view of the special circumstances prevailing in the country due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the life cover for AWWs/AWHs in the age group of 51-59 years (closed group as on 01.06.2017) has been increased from ₹30,000/- to ₹2,00,000/-.

Although, above Social Security Insurance Schemes for Anganwadi Workers/ Helpers have now been transitioned to full premium payment regime with effect from 1st April, 2020. Ministry has requested DFS, Ministry of Finance to reinstate the previous convergence of Insurance Schemes of PMJJBY/PMSBY/AKBY/FCI, etc upto 31st May, 2021.

(b) During COVID-19, State Governments and UT Administrations were advised to provide Food Security Allowance (FSA) comprising of foodgrains, pulses, oil etc.

(equivalent to cooking cost) to all eligible children till such time their schools are closed due to aforesaid pandemic. The modalities for this purpose may be decided by the respective States and UTs, suitable to the prevailing circumstances. States and UTs were further advised that all the precautionary measures to face the situation arising out of COVID-19 should be followed.

(c) Data pertaining to the use of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadi Kendras (PMBJKs) by women during the pandemic is not quantifiable, as the PMBJK doesn't keep records based on caste, creed, gender, economic status, etc. To make these Kendras easily accessible the Government has decided to open 10500 PMBJKs across the country covering all the districts by March 2025. Under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) about 6611 PMBJKs are functional across the country as on 18.09.2020 covering 732 districts. The Department has also launched a mobile application "Janaushadhi Sugam" for facilitating the general public by providing a digital platform for availing host of user-friendly options like - locate nearby PMBJK (direction guided through Google Maps), search janaushadhi medicines, analyse product comparison of Generic vs Branded medicine in the form of MRP & overall Savings, etc.

#### **Fund allocated under POSHAN Abhiyaan in Maharashtra**

1418. SHRIMATI PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of funds allocated / released / utilised under the POSHAN Abhiyaan in all the districts of Maharashtra during the last two years;

(b) whether Government has received proposals to provide balanced diet under the POSHAN Abhiyaan from the districts of Maharashtra;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of action taken with regard to the above mentioned proposals?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) The amount of funds released and utilised under the POSHAN Abhiyaan in the States of Maharashtra during the last two years are as indicated hereunder: