

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT**

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 230
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.03.2023**

ANGANWADI WORKERS

*230. SHRI SANDOSH KUMAR P:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- a. whether Government is aware of the fact that Anganwadi workers are not getting sufficient honorarium and other benefits in accordance with the tasks they are handling;
- b. whether there is any plan to increase the honorarium of Anganwadi workers;
- c. whether there is any plan to extend social security benefits including PF, gratuity and old age pension scheme to the Anganwadi workers;
- d. if so, the details thereof; and
- e. if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Part (a) to (e) of Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 230 to be answered on 22.03.2023 asked by SHRI SANDOSH KUMAR P by regarding “Anganwadi Workers”

(a) & (b) Government of India enhances the honorarium of Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs) from time to time. Last time, the honorarium was enhanced on 1st October, 2018, where in case of AWWs at main-AWCs it was raised from Rs.3,000/- to Rs.4,500/- per month; for AWWs at mini- AWCs from Rs.2,250/- to Rs.3,500/- per month and for AWHs from Rs.1,500/- to Rs.2,250/- per month. Performance linked incentive of Rs.250/- per month to AWHs and Rs.500 to AWWs was also introduced. In addition to this, States/UTs are also paying additional monetary incentives/honorarium to these functionaries from their own resources which vary from State to State. At present, there is no proposal under consideration to increase the honorarium of Anganwadi Workers.

AWWs/AWHs are mandated to discharge the following six key services under the Scheme to the eligible beneficiaries:

- i. Supplementary Nutrition (SNP)
- ii. Pre-school Non-formal Education,
- iii. Nutrition & Health Education,
- iv. Immunization,
- v. Health Check-up, and
- vi. Referral Services

Three of the six services, viz., Immunization, Health check-up and Referral Services are related to health and are provided through NHM & Public Health Infrastructure.

Further, this Ministry has time and again requested/directed States/UTs not to deploy AWWs/AWHs for any other non-Scheme related work.

(c) to (e) Anganwadi Services envisages Anganwadi Workers & Anganwadi 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 and being the honorary workers they do not hold any civil post and hence are not covered under the Minimum Wages Act.

As regards payment of gratuity to AWWs/AWHs, the Central Govt. is liable only for part payment of the honorarium and not the gratuity, as AWWs/AWHs are recruited by the State Governments and their service condition as honorary worker are decided by the concerned State Government/UT Administration.

However, in order to provide coverage under old age pension, this Ministry has requested/directed all States/UTs to encourage eligible AWWs/AWHs to get themselves enrolled under the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mandhan (PM-SYM) Pension Scheme on voluntary basis in order to get assured monthly pension of Rs.3,000/- on attaining the age of 60 years.

PM-SYM is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme on a 50:50 basis, where prescribed age-specific contribution shall be made by the beneficiary and the matching contribution by the Central Government for availing the assured pension of ₹ 3,000/- per month on attaining the age of 60 years.

Further, keeping in view the importance of their contribution towards society and sheer hard work showcased during COVID 19 pandemic, States/ UTs have been informed regarding the inclusion of AWWs and AWHs in Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package with Insurance Cover of Rs.50 lakh as per the prescribed norms.

As per the decision taken by the Government, w.e.f. 1st June 2020, claim settlements of beneficiaries under the insurance schemes of Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima YOjna (PMJJBY) and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) would be through their bank accounts.
