

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1853
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.08.2026**

DELAY IN PAYMENT OF HONORARIA TO ASHA WORKERS

1853 SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:

Will the **Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received reports of delays in payment of incentives, honoraria or other dues to Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) workers across States and Union Territories during the last five years and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the average duration of delay in such payments during this period;
- (c) the reasons cited for these delays, including administrative or fund transfer issues under the National Health Mission (NHM); and
- (d) the steps being taken by Government to ensure timely and direct payment to ASHA workers for services rendered?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV)**

(a) to (d): Health & Hospitals is a State Subject, the primary responsibility of strengthening public healthcare system, including support for ASHA workers lies with the respective State/Union Territories. Under National Health Mission (NHM), the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare provides the technical and financial support to the States/ Union Territories to strengthen their public healthcare system, based on the requirements posted by States/Union Territories in their Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs) and within the overall resource envelope.

Under National Health Mission (NHM), funds are released to States/Union Territories under flexible pools on a lump sum basis to provide greater flexibility to States to utilize the funds as per their felt need and priorities, hence no separate funds are released to the States/Union Territories for ASHA activities.

ASHAs receive incentive for routine and recurring activities. Additionally, they are provided performance-based incentives for a varied set of activities under various National Health Programmes. Incentives under ASHA program are revised regularly based on national priority and requests from State/Union Territories. Further new activities are also included periodically. The details of these ASHA incentives under NHM are available on the following Uniform Resources Locator (URL):

<https://nhm.gov.in/New-Update-2025-26/ASHA-incentive/ASHA%20Incentives.pdf>

ASHAs also receive incentives over and above provided under NHM from their respective State Budget to supplement the amount received under NHM.

After the launch of Ayushman Arogya Mandir, ASHAs are eligible additionally for Team Based Incentives (TBIs) based on monitored performance indicators (up to 1000 per month). ASHAs are also entitled to non-monetary incentives like – ASHA Uniform, Identity Card, CUG Sim, ASHA Diary, ASHA rest room etc. The Government has also approved a cash award of ₹20,000/- and a citation to ASHAs who leave the programme after working as ASHAs for minimum of 10 years, as acknowledgement of their contribution.

In the year 2018, the ASHA benefit package was introduced acknowledging significant contribution and commitment of ASHAs. Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Beema Yojana (PMJJBY) with a benefit Rs. 2.00 Lakh in case of death of the insured (annual premium contributed by GOI). Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Beema Yojana (PMSBY) with a benefit of Rs.2.00 lakh for accidental death or permanent disability; Rs. 1.00 lakh for partial disability (annual premium contributed by GOI).

In addition, Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan Dhan (PM-SYM) with pension benefit of ₹3,000/- pm after age of 60 years (50% contribution of premium by GOI and 50% by beneficiaries) is also available for ASHA workers. ASHAs across the States/Union Territories have been enrolled in all the above-mentioned Social Security Schemes as per the defined eligibility norms. Also, a health care annual coverage of ₹5 Lakhs under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB- PMJAY) has been extended to all ASHAs workers and their families.

As per the guidelines issued by the Department of Expenditure (DoE) dated 13.07.2023, the Ministry of Finance has introduced the New Fund Flow Mechanism i.e. SNA SPARSH which is just-in-time release of funds for all Centrally Sponsored Schemes.
