

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UN STARRED QUESTION NO. 2947
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.03.2023

ANGANWADI WORKERS/HELPERS

2947. SHRI SYED IMTIAZ JALEEL:

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

- a. the total number of Anganwadi workers/helpers working in the rural and urban areas of the country, particularly in the State of Maharashtra along with their duties and pay/salary;
- b. whether the Government has provided the basic facilities for these Anganwadi workers and children under their care and if so, the details thereof;
- c. whether the Government has received grievances/complaints from them and if so, the details thereof along with the remedial steps taken by Government;
- d. whether the Government is considering to increase the basic minimum wages and regular employment of health workers; and
- e. if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) As on 30.06.2022, there were 1271806 Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and 1168560 Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs) working at Anganwadi Centres across the country out of which 105724 AWWs and 82706 AWHs were working in the State of Maharashtra. Since AWWs and AWHs are honorary workers, they are paid a monthly honoraria as decided by the Government from time to time. The roles and responsibilities of AWWs and AWHs has been annexed.

(b) Various steps have been taken to modernise and augment the basic facilities of Anganwadis in the country from time to time as stated below:

- i. Under Saksham Anganwadi, across the country 2 lakh Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) (40,000 AWCs per year) would be strengthened and upgraded for improved nutrition delivery and for early childhood care and development of children under 6 years of age. This year 40,000 AWCs have been identified in aspirational districts for upgradation. Saksham Anganwadis shall have better infrastructure including internet/wifi connectivity, LED screens and smart learning and audio-visual aids and child-friendly learning equipment.
- ii. The cost of construction of Toilet per AWC has been revised to Rs.36000/- from Rs.12000/- and the cost for providing drinking water facilities has been revised to Rs.17000/- from Rs.10000/-.

- iii. State Governments/UT Administrations have been advised to take up the matter of installation of rainwater harvesting in Government owned Anganwadi buildings.
- iv. A total of 50,000 AWCs (@10,000 AWCs per year) would be constructed under convergence with MGNREGS for a five year period ending FY 2025-26.
- v. Grants are sanctioned for purchase of furniture, equipment, etc.
- vi. Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) have been provided with Smart Phones for efficient service delivery and Anganwadi Centres have been equipped with Growth Monitoring Devices.

(c) Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0 is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and the administration, management & monitoring regarding implementation of the Scheme is being done by the concerned State Government/UT Administration. Complaints, if received, with respect to irregularities/ corruption in implementation of the Scheme are taken up with concerned State Governments/UT Administrations for appropriate action. Reports on complaints which are serious in nature are sought from State Governments/ UT Administrations. Action for any misconduct or involvement of any employee in any corrupt practice is taken by the respective State Government/ UT Administration as per their service rules.

(d) & (e) Public Health and Hospitals is a State Subject, hence, all the administrative and personnel matters, lies with the respective State Governments/UT Administrations. Under National Health Mission (NHM), Government of India provides financial and technical support to State Governments/UT Administrations to strengthen their healthcare systems including support for salary of Health Worker, based on the requirements posed by them in their Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs) within their overall resource envelope.

ANNEXURE

Annexure Referred In Reply to Part (a) of Lok Sabha Un-Starred Question No.2947 for answer on 17.03.2023 raised by Shri Syed Imtiaz Jaleel regarding “Anganwadi Workers/Helpers” indicating role and responsibilities of Anganwadi Workers and Anganwadi Helpers

1. Roles and Responsibilities of Anganwadi Workers

- a. To elicit community support and participation in running the Poshan 2.0 programme.
- b. To learn to use and become proficient in the operations of the smartphone provided to the AWC where she undertakes the voluntary work.
- c. To feed relevant beneficiary data in Poshan Tracker app on regular basis as instructed from time to time and generate/submit reports/ returns as specified.
- d. To weigh each child every month, record the weight graphically on the growth card, use referral card for referring cases of mothers/children to the sub-centres/PHC etc., and maintain child cards for children below 6 years and produce these cards before visiting medical and para-medical personnel.
- e. To carry out a quick survey of all the families, especially mothers and children in those families at least once in a year.
- f. To organize non-formal pre-school activities in the Anganwadi for children in the age group 3-6 years and to help in designing and making of toys and play equipment of indigenous origin for use in the Anganwadi Centre.
- g. To organize supplementary nutrition feeding for children (0-6 years) and expectant and nursing mothers by planning the menu based on locally available ingredients and recipes.
- h. To provide health and nutrition education and counselling on breastfeeding and infant & young child feeding practices to mothers. Anganwadi workers being close to the local community shall motivate married women to adopt family planning/birth control measures.
- i. To help pregnant and lactating mothers visiting the Anganwadi centre to get the birth of their child registered and share the information with the village level functionary who notifies the Registrar of Births.
- j. To undertake home visits for educating parents and to enable mothers to plan effectively for the child's growth and development with special emphasis on the new born child.
- k. To maintain files and records as prescribed.
- l. To assist the PHC staff in the implementation of the health component of the programme, viz. immunization and health check-up, ante-natal and post-natal check etc.
- m. To assist ANM in the administration of IFA and Vitamin A by keeping stock of the two medicines in the Centre without maintaining stock register as it would add to her administrative work and affect her main functions under the Scheme.
- n. To share information collected under ICDS Scheme with the ANM. However, ANM will not solely rely upon the information obtained from the records of AWW.
- o. To bring to the notice of the Supervisors/CDPO any development in the village which requires their attention and intervention particularly with regard to the work of the coordinating arrangements with different departments.
- p. To coordinate with other local institutions and involve lady school teachers and girls of the primary/middle schools in the village which have relevance to her functions.

- q. To guide Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) engaged under National Health Mission in the delivery of health care services and maintenance of records under Poshan 2.0 (Anganwadi) Scheme.
- r. To assist in implementation of SAG and motivate and educate the adolescent girls and their parents and community in general by organizing social awareness programmes/campaigns etc.
- s. AWW shall assist in implementation of Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls as per the guidelines of the Scheme and maintain such records as prescribed.
- t. Anganwadi Worker shall function as depot holder for RCH Kit/contraceptives and disposable delivery kits. However, actual distribution of delivery kits or administration of drugs, other than OTC (Over the Counter) drugs shall be carried out by the ANM or ASHA as decided by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
- u. AWW shall help to identify the children with special needs during her home visits and refer the case immediately to the nearest PHC or District Disability Rehabilitation Centre.
- v. AWW shall support in organizing Pulse Polio Immunization (PPI) drives and in identifying cases of juvenile diabetes.
- w. Maintain Covid-19 protocols.
- x. Inform the ANM in case of emergency cases like diarrhoea, cholera etc.
- y. To perform any bona fide task related to Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0 as directed by Govt. of India depending on the circumstances.

2. Roles and Responsibilities of Anganwadi Helpers

- a. Cook and serve food to beneficiaries.
- b. Clean the Anganwadi premises daily and fetch water.
- c. Ensure cleanliness in young children.
- d. Bring children from the village community to the Anganwadi centre.
- e. Help AWW in smooth discharge of her duties.
- f. In absence of AWW, the Anganwadi Helper shall carry out her functions and discharge her responsibilities.
