

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 4057
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.03.2023

PROTEST OF ANGANWADI WORKERS

4057: DR. K. JAYAKUMAR:

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

- (a) whether the Government is cognizant about the ongoing protests of Anganwadi workers across the country;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has taken any action to address the issue of meager honorarium and regularize their payment;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the actions taken thereon;
- (d) whether the Government is planning to cover the Anganwadi workers under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948; 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) Anganwadi Services is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and the implementation, monitoring and administration of the Scheme is done by the concerned State Governments/ UT administrations. Therefore, taking cognizance of the ongoing protests of Anganwadi Workers across the country Government has issued necessary instructions to all States/ UTs to take appropriate measures and ensure that the services in the Anganwadi Centres are not affected due to the strikes. Further, States/ UTs have been requested to devise a strategy for suitable engagement with the protesting organizations for the smooth and uninterrupted implementation of the Scheme.

(b) to (e) AWWs/AWHs being honorary workers are paid a monthly honorarium as decided by the Government from time to time. From 1st October, 2018, Government of India has enhanced the honorarium of AWWs at main-AWCs from Rs.3,000/- to Rs.4,500/- per month; AWWs at mini- AWCs from Rs.2,250/- to Rs.3,500/- per month; 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.

Anganwadi Services considers AWWs/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 do not hold any civil post. Hence, the Minimum Wages Act is also not applicable to them.
