

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 956
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18th SEPTEMBER, 2020**

SAFETY PROVISIONS FOR ASHA WORKERS

956. SHRI PRADYUT BORDOLOI:

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

- (a) the details of additional safety provisions extended to the ASHA workers during their redeployment to Covid centric activities;
- (b) whether the payments and bonuses for these workers have been made on time in all the regions of the country, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government has considered increasing the monetary benefits of the ASHA workers, in light of the increased workload and risk to life due to the COVID-19 pandemic; if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a): Public health and hospitals is a State subject, as such the primary responsibility of extending safety provisions to their health employees/workers including ASHAs deployed for Covid related activities, lies with the respective States/UTs. However, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, has requested States/UTs for extending all support as well as making necessary provisions for the safety of ASHAs. Under the ASHA Incentives and Benefit Package, provisions have been made for providing masks, hand sanitizers and training on the subject including observance of social distancing norms while undertaking field work. Further, the benefit under “Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package : Insurance Scheme for Health Workers Fighting COVID 19”, has been launched to provide an insurance cover of Rs. 50 lakh to public health providers including community health workers/ASHAs, who may be at risk of being impacted by COVID 19.

(b): As stated above, Public Health and Hospitals is a State subject, responsibility for timely payment of incentive to ASHAs lies with the respective States/UTs. However, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, requests the States/UTs to ensure timely payment of incentives to ASHAs. The data on payment of incentives to ASHAs is not maintained centrally.

(c): The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India has provisions of additional incentive of Rs. 1000 per month under the “India COVID 19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Package” to ASHAs for undertaking COVID 19 related activities for the period of their engagement in this work.