GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 732 TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.07.2024

HONORARIUM FOR ANGANWADI WORKERS AND HELPERS

732 SHRI K RADHAKRISHNAN: SHRI AMRA RAM:

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

- (a) the date on which the honorarium for Anganwadi Workers and Helpers in the country was last revised;
- (b) the current rate of honorarium paid to Anganwadi workers and Helpers along with the criteria for payment of Honorarium;
- (c) whether the Government has taken note that Anganwadi Workers involved in the implementation of a large number of Government Programmes being run by different Ministries/Departments are not getting honorarium commensurate with their work load;
- (d) if so, whether the Government proposes to revise the honorarium at par with the workload and provide Minimum wages to Anganwadi workers, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether the Government proposes to appoint an additional worker in each of the Anganwadies so as to divide the work load and concentrate more on preschool education and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) to (d) Government of India increased the honorarium of Anganwadi Workers (AWWs)/Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs) from 1st October, 2018. At present, the honorarium of AWW at main Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) is Rs.4,500/- per month; AWW at mini- AWCs is Rs.3,500/- per month and AWH is Rs.2,250/- per month. Besides, performance linked incentive of Rs.250/- per month is provided to AWHs and Rs.500/- provided to AWWs. In addition, States/UTs are also paying additional monetary incentives/honorarium to these functionaries from their own resources which vary from State to State.

State/ UTs have been requested time and again through sustained engagements/ video conferences/advisories not to involve Anganwadi Workers/ Helpers in non scheme related work so that their time could be utilized for the effective implementation of the scheme.

With a view to incentivize and encourage the Anganwadi Workers and Anganwadi Helpers, various steps/initiatives have been undertaken including the following:

- i. Promotion: Under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0, promotional opportunities for Anganwadi Workers have been enhanced. 50% posts of Anganwadi Workers are to be filled by Anganwadi Helpers with 5 years of experience and 50% posts of Supervisors are to be filled by promotion of Anganwadi Workers with 5 years of experience subject to fulfilment of other criteria.
- ii. Social Security Insurance Schemes: Insurance benefits have been provided to Anganwadi Workers and Helpers under Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) for life cover worth Rs.2.00 lakh (covers life risk, death due to any reason) to AWWs/AWHs in the age group of 18 to 50 years and under Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana for accidental cover of Rs.2.00 Lakh (accidental death and permanent full disability) /Rs.1.00 Lakh (partial but permanent disability) in the age group of 18-59 years.
- iii. Insurance cover under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package: Anganwadi Workers and Anganwadi Helpers who have been engaged with the Covid-19 related tasks, have been provided with insurance cover of Rs.50 lakh under "Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package" with certain conditions.
- iv. Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan (PM-SYM): State Governments/UT Administrations have been requested to encourage eligible AWWs/AWHs to get themselves enrolled under the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mandhan (PM-SYM) Pension Scheme, which is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme for the unorganized sectors in the country to ensure old age protection.
- v. Retirement date: States/ UTs have been requested to adopt a uniform retirement date i.e 30th April of each year with respect to Anganwadi Workers and Helpers to ensure proper human resource planning.
- vi. It has been announced in the interim budget FY 2024-25 to extend healthcare annual coverage of Rs. 5 Lakhs under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) to all Anganwadi workers and helpers.
- (e) Government has issued orders for upgradation of all mini-AWC to regular AWCs. This would add an Anganwadi Helper in these Mini Anganwadi Centres across the country to share the burden of Anganwadi Worker so that the component of ECCE can be strengthened.

Besides under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0, IT systems have been leveraged to reduce the workload through Poshan Tracker which has digitized & automated nine physical registers out of eleven prepared and used by AWWs.
