

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 2022
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.12.2024

ICDS SCHEME

2022. SMT. DAGGUBATI PURANDESWARI:

Will the Minister of Women and Child Development be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has data regarding the performance of Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) run through Anganwadis in Andhra Pradesh and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has noticed that anganwadi workers are the centre point of primary healthcare in India and if so, the details of steps being taken for their welfare; and
- (c) whether the Government proposes to increase honorarium to anganwadi workers and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI SAVITRI THAKUR)

(a) to (c) During the 15th Finance Commission (FC) period, various components such as nutritional support for children from 6 months to the age of 6 years, pregnant women and lactating mothers and Adolescent Girls; Early Childhood Care and Education of children (3-6 years) and Anganwadi infrastructure including modern, upgraded Saksham Anganwadi have been reorganised under an umbrella Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 (Mission Poshan 2.0). The package of following six services is provided under the Mission Poshan 2.0 scheme through a network of Anganwadi centres across the country:

- i. Supplementary Nutrition (SNP),
- ii. Pre-school Non-formal Education,
- iii. Nutrition & Health Education,
- iv. Immunization,
- v. Health Check-up,
- vi. Referral Services

Three of the six services, viz., Immunization, Health Check-up and Referral Services are related to health and are provided through National Health Mission (NHM) & Public Health Infrastructure.

The beneficiaries under Mission Poshan 2.0 are children up to the age of 6 years, Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers across the country and Adolescent Girls in the age group of 14 to 18 years in Aspirational Districts of States and all districts of North Eastern Region. Under the scheme, a total of 31,64,138 beneficiaries are registered in 55607 operational Anganwadi centres on Poshan Tracker as on October, 2024 in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

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.

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. **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.
- iv. **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.
- v. 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.

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.

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