

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 2216
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.12.2025

AWCS IN MAHARASHTRA

†2216. SHRI BALYA MAMA SURESH GOPINATH MHATRE:

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

- (a) the number of Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) approved and currently functional in urban areas of Maharashtra;
- (b) whether the services of AWCs are inadequate in densely populated areas such as Bhiwandi, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to open new AWCs in areas like Bhiwandi, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether Anganwadi workers in Maharashtra have been demanding increase in honorarium and benefits of pension and gratuity since long and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) Out of a total 1,10,631 operational Anganwadi Centres in the State of Maharashtra, a total of 19,795 are operational in urban areas. Further, a total of 786 Anganwadi Centres are operational in Bhiwandi in State of Maharashtra in which 445 Anganwadi Centres are in rural areas and 341 Anganwadi Centres are in urban areas.

To ensure effective delivery of services under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0, Relocation guidelines have been issued requesting States and UTs to revisit and rationalize the location of AWCs as per their requirement so as to optimally serve the intended beneficiaries.

Under PM-JANMAN (Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan), in PVTG (Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups) Areas 2,500 Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) have been approved for construction including 178 Anganwadi Centres in the State of Maharashtra.

Further, Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 is a Centrally Sponsored scheme. The Central Government is responsible for policy and planning and the State Governments and UT Administrations are responsible for day-to-day program implementation including recruitment for implementation of the scheme.

Through sustained engagements and meetings at regular intervals, States and UTs have been requested to optimize coverage of beneficiaries including child beneficiaries and ensure efficient implementation of the scheme.

Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs) are “honorary workers” from the local community who voluntarily come forward to render their services in the area of child care and development to help the local community for which they are paid monthly honorarium.

Honorarium is given to AWWs and AWHs which is increased from time to time. From 1st October, 2018, Government of India has enhanced the honorarium of AWWs at Anganwadi centres (AWCs) from Rs.3,000/- to Rs.4,500/- per month and AWHs from Rs.1,500/- to Rs.2,250/- per month as per the defined cost sharing ratio between the Centre & States/UTs. In addition, States/UTs are also paying additional monetary incentives/top ups to these functionaries from their own resources which vary from State to State. Besides, performance linked incentive of Rs.500/- is provided to AWWs and Rs.250/- per month to AWHs.

Under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0, AWWs have been technologically empowered with the provision of smartphones for efficient monitoring and service delivery. Poshan Tracker which is a mobile phone application that has digitized physical registers used by Anganwadi workers. This improves the quality of their work while simultaneously enabling them for real-time monitoring of all activities going on in the Anganwadis.

To incentivize and encourage the AWWs and AWHs, various 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. Leave: 20 days annual leave and paid maternity absence of 180 days, paid absence on abortion/ miscarriage once for 45 days.
- iii. State Governments and UT Administrations have been requested to encourage eligible AWWs and 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. 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) 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.
- v. Retirement date: States and 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. Annual Healthcare coverage of Rs. 5 Lakhs under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) to all Anganwadi workers and helpers in pursuance to budget announcement in FY 2024-25.
