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Title : Regarding ameliorating the condition of Anganwadi workers –
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SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): The importance of Anganwadi workers as frontline health workers has increased significantly since the outbreak of the pandemic. Despite the extra burden of work, their salaries have not sufficiently increased to compensate them. This is linked to the fact that these workers are designated as honorary and are provided with monthly honorarium, and hence, are not eligible to avail minimum wages.

Despite India's 7th Pay Commission mandating the monthly wage rate to be fixed at Rs.18,000 for skilled workers, they hardly receive this much. Being frontline workers, they had to conduct surveillance duties to control the pandemic without adequate protective gear since they are categorized as low-risk workers, despite the associated health risks.

Thus, I urge upon the Government to ameliorate their status and provide them minimum wages as applicable to skilled workers.