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Title : Demand for time bound implementation of minimum or basic wage benefits for Nurses in the country.

**DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM):** It is most unfortunate that lakhs of nurses who work in private hospitals across our country, the majority of whom work long hours and under challenging conditions, have had to repeatedly fight with the local State Governments, especially in Delhi, for implementation of minimum or basic wage benefits. Nurses professional associations across India are struggling for implementation of recommendations given by the Central Government's Expert Committee which was set up on the hon. Supreme Court Directions. The Committee endorsed minimum wages of Rs.20,000 a month at least for private nursing professionals, which varies depending upon the number of beds in the hospital and corresponding working conditions, as provided to their counterparts in government hospitals. The States were required to implement the panel's recommendations within three months but in most parts of the country this reasonable request has not merited a response.

Despite representing an indispensable component of India's healthcare infrastructure, despite their life-saving role which makes them a source of pride for our country for their domestic and international contributions, the legitimate concerns of our nurses to be offered decent benefits on par with their counterparts in government hospitals continues to be ignored.

As elected representatives, we have a moral duty to offer our wholehearted support to this community and to do our best to offer them better working conditions and financial support. No one here has not benefited in some way from nursing services. Therefore, I urge this Government to take strong cognizance of this long-pending demand and do a timebound implementation of minimum wages for them throughout the country. Thank you.

**माननीय अध्यक्ष :**

कुँवर पुष्पेन्द्र सिंह चन्देल,

श्री कुलदीप राय शर्मा एवं

श्री एन. के. प्रेमचन्द्रन को डॉ. शशि थरूर द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ संबद्ध करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है ।

माननीय सदस्यगण, मैं सभी माननीय सदस्यों को दो बजे के बाद बोलने का अवसर दूंगा । कुछ टैक्निकल प्रॉब्लम आ गई है ।

सभा की कार्यवाही दो बजे तक के लिए, भोजन के लिए स्थगित की जाती है ।

**13.06 hrs**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for lunch till*

*Fourteen of the Clock.*

**माननीय अध्यक्ष :श्री हनुमान बेनीवाल ।**