

**Title: Re: Increase in wages of Anganwadi teachers and helpers and other benefits to them.**

**ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE (IDUKKI):** Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity.

Sir, the Integrated Child Development Programme is the most revolutionary social development programme in our country. It was introduced by our former hon. Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi Ji, in 1975. I am raising a matter related to the Anganwadi teachers and helpers. They are addressing the concerns of nutritional deficiencies of the new-born babies, pregnant ladies, children and teenage girls but they are not recognised with as much concern as their commitments and hard work they give to our nation.

Sir, I am raising the matter with regard to increase in their wages. They should get minimum wages and salaries, whichever are applicable to other labourers and workers. As per the recommendations of the 11<sup>th</sup> Pay Commission, minimum salary for the last Grade, which is Grade-7, is Rs.23,700. So, the salaries of anganwadi teachers and helpers should be in line with that. They should also get ESI facilities and other benefits like pension, gratuity, Provident Fund, etc. In the State of Kerala, they are getting a salary of about Rs.12,500. Of this, the Central share is about Rs.4500. Therefore, I would request the Government to increase the Central share up to Rs.10,000. Thank you. Sir.