

Regarding service conditions of Anganwadi workers.-laid

SHRI V.K. SREEKANDAN (PALAKKAD): The Anganwadi workers numbering nearly three million play an important role in combating hunger and malnutrition among the children in our country. Today, their life itself is in very pathetic and miserable condition as they are paid low wages. They have been demanding to regularize their job, so that they can get a decent salary and the benefit of pension, health facilities, etc. As per guidelines under the National Nutrition Mission 02, contract staff strength has been reduced by 50%, badly affecting the working of ICDS centres. With the meager amount they are getting it will not be possible for them to visit many blocks and run and manage the affairs of more than 33,000 Anganwadis looking after more than 40 lakh beneficiaries with a staff strength of 100 as per the said guidelines. Moreover, the services of these contract staff of NNMs are essentially more required in tribal areas like Attappadi, etc. where the child death, mortality of mothers due to anaemia, etc. are on the rise and is continuing unabated. Therefore, it is urged that the Anganwadi workers be paid a suitable salary and their job be regularized and the staff strength should be restored.