

Regarding need to provide minimum wages to Anganwadi and ASHA workers/helpers and also extend Employees' State Insurance Scheme benefits to them-laid

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO (BOLANGIR): The Anganwadi Workers/Helpers play an important role in combating hunger and malnutrition among the children in our country. These workers are provided with monthly honorarium, and hence, are not eligible to avail minimum wages. Today, their life itself is in a 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.

The Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) are working as frontline rural healthcare volunteers in the country. It is unfortunate that ASHA workers are getting very less payment for their selfless service.

Moreover, the services of these Anganwadi and ASHA Workers/Helpers are essentially more required in Aspirational districts and tribal areas like Bolangir where infant mortality and maternal mortality rates are high.

I urge upon the Government to provide Anganwadi and ASHA Workers/Helpers the minimum wages as applicable to skilled workers and to extend Employees' State Insurance Scheme benefits to them.

12.13 hrs