

Regarding need to enhance the wages of Anganwadi, ASHA and MGNREGS workers-laid

ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE (IDUKKI): The success of welfare programs of the Government hinges on the Government machinery on ground in the form of workers employed by the Government. The ASHA workers, Anganwadi teachers and workers registered under MGNREGA form this backbone. Their salary is meagre. They have to work for long hours and have to traverse long distances, often by foot. But their salary is very less. This is also because the funds under NHM are not released properly. Puducherry gives Rs 10,000 as a fixed allowance to an Asha worker while this is Rs 6,000 for Asha workers in Madhya Pradesh, Rs 4,500 in West Bengal and Rs 6,000 in Kerala ? with the state government contributing Rs 4,000 and the rest, Rs 2,000, is given by village panchayats. This is very low. It should be increased to at least INR 25,000 per month for Anganwadi and ASHA workers. For the MGNREGA workers, the daily wage should be increased to match the living wage of the area. I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps so that Anganwadi, ASHA and MNGREGA workers are given wages that match their hard work and keep up their dignity.