

Fourteenth Lok Sabha

Session : 8

Date : 26-07-2006

Participants : [Chatterjee Shri Santasri](#), [Satheedevi Smt. P.](#), [Khan Shri Sunil](#)

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Title : Reported hunger strike and dharna by I.C.D.S employees in Delhi.

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE (SERAMPORE): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I do not know whether the hon. Minister of Women and Child Development is aware that since yesterday, braving the inclement weather of Delhi, a good number of ICDS employees are sitting on mass *dharna* and relay hunger strike to press for their seven-point demands[[krr56](#)].

The demands of the *anganwadi* workers are:

Universalisation of the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme as per the Supreme Court order and NCMP commitment and making it permanent;

Regularisation of the services of *anganwadi* workers and helpers as Grade III and Grade IV employees;

Immediate enhancement of the remuneration of the *anganwadi* workers to Rs. 3,000 per month and helpers to Rs. 2,000 per month;

Automatic linkage to Consumer Price Index;

Ex gratia of Rs. 1,00,000 to workers and Rs. 50,000 to helpers on retirement at 60 years;

Implementation of all the social security benefits like Provident Fund, ESI, Gratuity, Pension, etc; and

Formation of a National Tripartite Committee on the issues of the *anganwadi* employees.

The Government, in a booklet, reported to the people that about 1.88 lakh new centres are functioning. It also reported that the outlay for ICDS has been increased by 171 per cent. It also reported that nutritious food is being provided to all pregnant women and children, and it was not limited to BPL people. When this was reported to the people by the UPA Government, I wonder what the hon. Minister is doing. Our sisters are waiting there, and they are on hunger strike and on *dharnas*. Should the Government not approach them, invite them and consider their legitimate demands?

Therefore, hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I draw your kind attention and I would request you to direct the Government to see reason and to ensure that their legitimate demands are fulfilled.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (DURGAPUR): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the whole House as well as the Minister for Women and Child Development to the fact that right from yesterday, mass rallies and hunger strikes are going on at Jantar Mantar near the Parliament Street. They have already met the Minister one

month ago and they raised their demands. Their main demand is to regularise the services of *anganwadi* employees and helpers, that is, Grade III and Grade IV employees, and to make them permanent employees.

They are also demanding that the ICDS Scheme should become a permanent one, and the Government should open more *anganwadi* centres in all human habitations within a prescribed time-frame. They also want regularisation of the services of the *anganwadi* workers and helpers as Grade III and Grade IV employees with all attendant benefits. The key grass-root level functionaries of the ICDS are not even recognised as employees. They do not have any job security or social security. The Supreme Court has given a verdict in 2001 that every settlement in the country should have a functioning *anganwadi* centre and it should be made operational immediately. They also want immediate enhancement of the remuneration of the *anganwadi* workers to Rs. 3,000 per month and helpers to Rs. 2,000 per month. Besides, they want automatic linkage of their remuneration to Consumer Price Index. In addition, they want a lump sum *ex gratia* of Rs. 1,00,000 to be paid to *anganwadi* workers and Rs. 50,000 to be paid to the helpers on retirement at 60 years. The retirement benefits given to the *anganwadi* workers and the helpers should also cover EPF, ESI, etc. They also want a National Tripartite Committee consisting of representatives of the Government of India, State Governments, trade unions representing the *anganwadi* workers and helpers.

यह समाज की कली है। तीन साल से पांच साल तक के जो बच्चे हैं, वे समाज की कली हैं। इनको फूल बनाने के लिए हमारे आंगनबाड़ी के वर्कर्स और हेल्पर्स, उनको खाना देते हुए, उनका पालन करते हुए, उनको थोड़ा-बहुत पढ़ने-लिखने का सामान देते हैं और इसके माध्यम से क्लाज वन में सर्व शिक्षा अभियान का जो हमारा लक्ष्य है, वह पूरा हो जाए। अगर हम कली को फूल नहीं बनाएंगे, तो हमारा समाज सही ढंग से नहीं चल पाएगा।

I would urge upon the Government to fulfil the demands of the *anganwadi* workers and helpers immediately so that India can prosper and our children can become good citizens of India.

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI (BADAGARA): I associate myself, Sir.