

Fourteenth Loksabha

Session : 8

Date : 02-08-2006

Participants : [Manoj Dr. K.S.](#)

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Title : Need to regularize service of Anganwadi workers.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (ALLEPPEY): Sir, just now we have discussed the problems of children. Children are the future of our nation. About 34 per cent of our population is below 14 years. Out of this 34 per cent of the total population, nearly 47 per cent of the child population is malnourished and under weight. Lack of food security and poor nutritional status affects the physical growth, intelligence, behaviour and learning abilities of children and adolescents, especially during the development period of brain from zero to three years age. To tackle this problem, we had implemented Integrated Child Development Scheme in 1975 but until now only 50 per cent of child population is covered under this Scheme. Now there are around eight lakh *Anganwadi* Centres in our country[r108].

We need 14 lakh *Anganwadi* workers to cover the entire population of children, adolescents, pregnant woman and nursing women for implementation of the ICDS programme. *Anganwadi* workers and helpers play a pivotal role in the functioning of this programme. There are about 15 lakh *Anganwadi* workers and helpers in our country. But they are very meagrely paid. They work for four to five hours a day but they are very meagrely paid. They are staging a *dharna* in Jantar Mantar since last week. Around 10 to 15 thousand workers are participating in the *dharna* to seek the attention of the Government for redressal of their grievances.

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : इस पर काफी डिसकशन हो गया है। आप क्या चाहते हैं ?

DR. K.S. MANOJ : So, I would like to urge upon the Government to universalise the ICDS programme and also to regularise the services of the *Anganwadi* workers to strengthen the programme.