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Title: Need to increase honorarium of Anganwadi workers and helpers.

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA (MAVELIKARA): Thank you, Chairman, Sir.

There are about 14 lakh women engaged in the work at around seven lakhs Anganwadi Centres spread across the country. The Anganwadi workers are doing commendable service to the society, particularly to the rural poor. Their area of service includes pre-school education, supplementary nutrition, health and referral services, pregnant women and lactating mothers and children under six. But it is rather unfortunate that these poor women are forced to work for a pittance. The honorarium provided to an Anganwadi worker is Rs.1000 and a Helper is Rs.500. This has to be enhanced to Rs.3,000 and Rs.2,000 respectively. The Anganwadis should be transformed into Children care-cum-Creches making them into full time service integrating various other Government services into them. The ICDS service should be made permanent and the retirement age will be fixed at 60 years with all the benefits. The service should be regularized to Grade III and Grade IV. Also, the number of Anganwadi Centres should be raised to cover the ratio of one Centre for 1000 people. The Anganwadi workers are on agitation demanding these above measures.

I urge upon the Government to take urgent measures in this regard.

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI (BADAGARA): Sir, I am also requesting her to associate me with this.

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA : Sir, she is also associating with this matter.