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Title: Need to enhance the salary of Anganwadi workers in Andhra Pradesh at par with the amount paid in other States.

SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR (KARIMNAGAR): I would like to draw the attention of the Government regarding the need to take steps for the overall welfare of workers in Anganwadi Centres in Andhra Pradesh

As the Government is well aware that, under ICDS, there are 7073 total number of projects all over the country and 387 projects are there in Andhra Pradesh. Their working hours are from 9 a.m to 1.30 p.m. but they stay beyond 3.00 p.m. as the parents will return from the fields by 4.00 p.m. sometimes. For this work, they are being paid an amount of Rs.3,700 per month only and the Central share is Rs.3000/- and the State's share is Rs.700/-. The credit of the raising of salaries from Rs.1.500/- in 2004 to Rs.300/- in 2009 goes to the Congress and UPA Government. They will conduct 80% of BPL survey. But it is sad to note that Anganwadi workers are not provided PF facility and other retirement benefits at par with Government employees. They are treated in a bad manner and in the present days, even contract employees including labour in Municipality are getting minimum of Rs.6000/- pay with PF facility. With regard to the comparison of payment. Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala State Anganwadi workers are paid with Rs.5600/- and odd. In Pondicherry, it is Rs. 15,000/-. That means, the payment to Anganwadi workers is very much low in Andhra Pradesh and such situation is leading to discrimination of Anganwadi workers. Even MNREGS worker is getting an amount of Rs.15.000/- to Rs.20.000/- per hundred days. Hence, in view of the above factual situation, I request the Hon'ble Minister for Health & Family Welfare to intervene in the matter to raise the salaries of the Anganwadi workers in Andhra Pradesh on par with other States to raise their living standards by treating them at par with Government employees by providing other benefits on top priority.