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Title: Regarding Economic status of Auxiliary Nurse Midwifery (ANM) workers.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Health Ministry in regard to a watershed programme. That is also recognized as one of the flagship programmes of the UPA Government. That is the National Rural Health Mission.

Sir, already health services have been decentralized in the nook and corner of our country through this programme. But I am getting a little bit befuddled to find the disparity in wages and working condition between Auxiliary Nurse Midwifery Phase I and Phase II.

Sir, 8,33,000 ASHA workers have been employed by this Government. Auxiliary Nurse Midwifery is also a very important ingredient of this programme.

Sir, I have got one representation from the member of the State Committee of West Bengal Chapter of the National Rural Health Mission that second ANMs are in receipt of wages 35 per cent less than first ANMs despite second ANMs are in possession of equal qualification and render better service. That is number one.

Secondly, second ANMs request for the same coloured uniform at par with first ANMs to boost moral as they are treated inferior in different colour.

Thirdly, during leave of absence of any second ANM, reliever's arrangement is necessary to continue service.

Fourthly, second ANMs perform duty for 24 hours because they are under contract whereas the first ANMs do duty only for six hours.

And, fifthly, in case of death in harness and disability, the second ANM needs to be treated at par with the first ANM.

When the Government is so generous of hiking the remuneration of Anganwadi workers and Anganwadi helpers, I think this kind of disparity that has been prevailing on between the first ANMs and the second ANMs should be wiped out. Therefore, I would urge upon this Government to remove the disparities so that ANMs of all categories should be treated at par and they do not entertain or they do not nurse a sense of deprivation. Thank you.