

>

Title: Regarding workers engaged in the Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government and the concerned Minister to the serious problems and grievances of the workers engaged in the Centrally-sponsored schemes. There is no doubt that the Centrally-sponsored schemes are the great contributions of the Central Government. These schemes are being implemented through the block panchayats and the gram panchayats. Thousands of workers are engaged in these Centrally-sponsored schemes, but they are having some grievances. For example, you take anganwadi teachers, and helpers and workers under SSA, and also ASHA workers. There are thousands and thousands of workers who are engaged in these schemes, but it is unfortunate to note that they are poorly paid. They are not getting the minimum wages, bonus or PF; they are only getting very low honorarium.

Just two days back, about 50,000 workers had come to Delhi, the capital of our country, and staged a two-day *dharna* demanding that they want to get at least the minimum wage of Rs. 10,000 and other facilities. Our Government has really the financial soundness to give tax exemptions to the upper classes and other sections. At the same time, these Centrally-sponsored schemes are being implemented through these workers only and I am sure that 95 per cent of them are women workers. So, the Government has to take a serious note of it. They have also given a representation to the hon. Prime Minister.

I would request and urge upon the Government to take necessary steps in this regard.