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Title: *Need to ensure a regular minimum remuneration for registered ASHA workers under National Rural Health Mission.

SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA (BALASORE): Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, for allowing me to bring before the august House an issue which is being faced by more than nine lakh ASHA workers in the country. ASHA workers are virtually the spine of rural healthcare system. They become the single point of contact in case of several health needs in the country – be it immunization, be it delivery or whatever it is.

But the point is, the kind of remuneration or the compensation which ASHA workers get is extremely meagre and on many occasions it does not even fulfil the criteria laid down for minimum wages in the country. In the process, what happens is, not only do they get affected, but the purpose for which they are appointed also gets diluted.

So, I would like to appeal to the Government, through you, to take cognisance of the issues being faced by ASHA workers in the country who are more than nine lakhs and allocated a fixed sum or a fixed remuneration in addition to the variable packages which they get and also introduce certain social security measures like Provident Fund, ESI and Pension for all ASHA workers in the country.