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Title: Need to increase the honorarium and salary of mid-day meal workers as per minimum wage regulations.

SHRI D.K. SURESH (BANGALORE RURAL) : Mid Day Meal workers have been demanding hike in their salaries for quite some time. The current salary is Rs.1700 for head cook and Rs.1600 for assistant cook. These salaries are not as per minimum wage regulations. There are nearly 26 lakh mid day meal workers across the country, most of them are women.

Mid day meal workers work more than 6 hours a day for 5 days a week. These underpaid workers are the ones responsible for making the mid day meal programme successful. Unless these workers are paid adequately, the scheme meant to improve learning and school attendance will suffer.

The Union Ministry of Human Resources Development had announced that the honorarium would be increased from Rs.1000 to Rs.2000 per month. However this increase has not been implemented so far.

I urge the Government of India to implement the decision to increase the honorarium and also increase the salaries of the mid day meal workers as per minimum wage regulations at the earliest.