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Title: Regarding the problems of Anganwadi workers in the country.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE (BARAMATI): Anganwadi workers were instituted under the Integrated-Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme. They work to provide preschooling to children, nutritional supplements to pregnant women, vaccinations to babies among others. Since the progress of the society depends on the health and nutritional status of women and children, their role is an important one. Apart from their prescribed duties in the scheme, the Anganwadis are also involved in jobs like undertaking household surveys for Census, election cards and ration cards. Despite the importance of their role and the amount of workload, Anganwadis workers are not considered Government employees as they are employed just under a Scheme. Even the honorarium they receive is below the minimum subsistence wages. The Sevikas as they are called, also face delays in wage disbursal. But the Government instead of addressing this issue, has reduced the budget allocation for ICDS scheme in 2016. Hence, I bring to the attention of the house this issue of Anganwadi workers and request the Government to regularise their employment. Since their actions affect health of mothers and children, the Government must incentivize them by increasing their honorarium.