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Title: Problems faced by ASHA workers in the country.

ADV. JOICE GEORGE (IDUKKI): Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs), whose roles include social activism, are the key cadre in India's Community Health Work programme, which is designed to improve maternal and child health. They act as an interface between the community and the public health system. These workers are doing good work in facilitating health services in the rural, remote and inaccessible parts of India, which has resulted in not only controlling but considerably reducing the post-maternity death rates of mothers and infants. However, the plight of these ASHA workers is poor and miserable. The major problems faced by the ASHAs are with regard to their remuneration. They are getting only Rs.1500/- per month and also their employment is not permanent. So I urge upon the Government to increase their salary to Rs.10000/- per month to bring them under pension scheme and also take immediate steps to make their job permanent.