

Development scheme since October 2, 1975 for the children below 6 years of age and for the pregnant women, to save them from malnutrition. In the scheme 9 categories of workers were recruited and out of these 7 categories of workers were appointed as Government servants. However 'anganwadi' workers and helpers entrusted with the task of basic duties are being paid honorarium of Rs. 275 and Rs. 110 per month.

Sir, through you, I would like to submit to the Government to grant the 'anganwadi' workers and helpers the status of Government servants as they are engaged in the task of building the character of the children of India. They also distribute nutritious diet to children in the backward areas. Can the Government ask any workers to distribute diet to the other children when her own children are not properly fed? The mental exploitation of the workers engaged in the task of polishing the career of future citizens of India and caring for the pregnant women should be stopped and they should be accorded the status of Government servants forthwith.

They have been fighting for their demands for the last two years. Even, during these days of cold they have been staging dharna in front of Legislative Assembly in Lucknow and at the Boat Club in Delhi. Therefore, the matter should be taken seriously and their economic and mental exploitation should be stopped. They should be given the status of Government employees so that they can work properly. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): Sir, you yourself know that this is a very serious question. So, please take it up with the concerned Minister. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: All lady Members are supporting it.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) As this is a very genuine cause, we also join and support them in this matter. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum): This issue concerns the whole of India and it relates to the welfare of children of our country. Therefore, their condition should be improved. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): Mr. Speaker, Sir, labour laws and also Minimum Wages Act are being violated. When I was the Minister, I had issued orders to pay Rs 500/- as minimum wages per month to them. I had also made it clear that the Government did not have adequate funds due to financial constraints, however, I had said that it may be increased further. But it is a matter of regret that two years have passed but the order issued in regard to the minimum wages of Rs 500/- per month has not been implemented so far. If the Government cannot increase the wages of labourers then why they are decreasing what was increased earlier. The House is concerned in this regard.

[*English*]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Mr. Speaker Sir, I also want to...

MR. SPEAKER: You have endorsed it by standing up. Please sit down.

DR. K.V. CHOWDARY (Rajahmundry): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in coastal Andhra Pradesh, especially in East Godavari District, there has been vast damage to crops due to heavy

rains. The ryots with meagre income are the worst affected and so is the case with the weavers. The Central Government should send survey teams to assess the damage to the crops, irrigation tanks, roads and houses. Relief operations should start on a war footing to render help to these people.

The farmers should be given seeds and fertilizers at subsidised prices. They should also be given agricultural loans free of interest. The Government should also help them in getting insurance claims on the basis of village-wise damage instead of the existing basis of region-wise damage, with more than fifty villages or so.

Roads are badly damaged due to heavy rains and floods and also due to the stagnation of water. The Government should come forward with a liberal hand and grant the aid required to the tune of Rs. 300 crores.

In East Godavari, the train services are not satisfactory. Several passenger trains are discontinued recently and express trains which are discontinued during the Border trouble are not introduced again. I request that all these train services should be introduced again. Important stations such as Rajahmundry and Dwarapudi used to have halts for express trains previously. Now they do not enjoy this facility. There is not Emergency Quota reservation in 1st AC and II AC reservations at Rajahmundry which is an important railway station in the South Central Railway. No one bothers to listen to our requests, though we are here to represent the people and ventilate their grievances. The bureaucrats execute things as they wish and not even a single request that I proposed in the Railway Convention Committee, has been acceded to by them. I request the Railway Minister to look into the matter and give a favourable decision.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH (Mirzapur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Mohan Badola is renowned journalist the country. Times of India Group appointed him Resident Editor in Lucknow. He worked successfully... (*Interruptions*)... After about one year of his term a man asked him to sign an affidavit..... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Will the industrial matters be discussed here?

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH: It is related not to industries but to a renowned journalist of the country... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Is it such an important issue to be discussed here? The Government is not concerned about it, so it cannot be discussed in the House.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: It may be a matter of concern but not an issue to be discussed in the House

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Mr. Speaker Sir, I wish to raise a very important issue. The entire House is aware that the doctors who were on strike from the beginning of November, called off their strike when an appeal was made to them by all the political parties. We requested them to withdraw their strike on the assurance of the Health Minister that he would look into their grievances sympathetically. On 28th November, the representatives of various political parties were present at the office of the Health Minister. I had the occasion to be present there and the doctors also came there. They responded to our appeal and withdrew the strike unconditionally only on the basis that the hon. Minister's