

**Regarding improving service conditions of Anganwadi, ASHA and Auxiliary Nurse Midwife health workers-laid**

**SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE (BARAMATI):** Healthcare workers are an important link between the health providers and community, and are instrumental in raising awareness about health-related risks, especially in rural areas. Study undertaken in the anganwadi centres of India proved that interventions by anganwadi workers can help in early detection and appropriate management of preventable childhood disabilities like malnutrition. Anganwadi sevikas who work at the grassroot level are major contributors for this reduction in malnutrition. Anganwadi sevikas undertake a range of crucial functions including conducting real time monitoring of malnutrition among children and lactating mothers, organising immunization drives along with Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM), providing pre-school & health education, distributing supplementary nutrition among others. Despite the importance of the functions they perform, they are not entitled to any wages but are paid a mere honorarium by the Centre and the State Governments as per the cost sharing ratio. I urge the Centre to ensure that Anganwadi, ASHA & ANM healthcare workers are compensated with appropriate financial entitlement, job security and other employment related benefits by recognising them as permanent Government employees.

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**14.03 hrs**