

Regarding plight of Anganwadi workers in Kerala

SHRI V. K. SREEKANDAN (PALAKKAD): Sir, the Anganwadi workers numbering over 61,000 have been on strike in Kerala for the last ten days. They are leading a miserable life with a meagre amount of honorarium that has not been hiked for the last eight years, coupled with excessive workload. They demand that the honorarium be enhanced to Rs. 21,000 per month and that they be declared as Government employees in line with the hon. Supreme Court's directives in this regard.

These Anganwadi workers have to meet the expenses of the Anganwadi Centres out of the pittance honorarium they are receiving, and its disbursement is at the whims and fancies of the Government officials. Therefore, the Anganwadi workers should be given a retirement benefit of Rs. 5 lakh.

Since this is a female-exclusive segment, there is a need to ensure safety and security for them. These Anganwadi workers should be brought under ESIC, and health insurance should also be provided to them.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to consider all their demands since it is a Central Scheme with equal responsibilities of the State Government.