

Regarding challenges faced by ASHA workers

SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMTHITTA): Madam Chairperson, I stand today to highlight the serious challenges faced by ASHA workers who are the backbone of India's healthcare system. Despite their crucial role, they continue to struggle due to poor working conditions and low pay.

I request the Government to take urgent steps to declare ASHA workers as last-grade Government employees across the country so that they will get reward for their work. The ASHA workers handle multiple responsibilities, leading to heavy workload and health risks. Many suffer from malnutrition, anaemia, and other diseases due to lack of proper support. The shocking fact is that their current incentive is Rs. 2,000 per month, which is highly inadequate and failing to reflect the critical nature of their services. Also, many are forced to spend from their own pockets for work-related expenses, pushing them further into financial distress.

Madam, in Kerala, the ASHA workers played a crucial role in effectively managing the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the inadequate incentives provided by both the State and Central Governments have left them struggling to make ends meet despite their vital contributions to public health.