

**Regarding social security, pension and insurance coverage to aaganwadi and mid-day-meal workers**

**DR. K. SUDHAKAR (CHIKKBALLAPUR):** Hon. Chairperson, Madam, I rise to draw the attention of this august House to the agitating aaganwadi and mid-day-meal workers in Karnataka who are on indefinite protest demanding dignity, fair wages, and social security.

Hon. Chairperson, Madam, these workers are mostly women, working from economically vulnerable backgrounds.

These women ensure nutrition to the children, meals to school students, and support to pregnant and lactating mothers. But unfortunately, they themselves face financial insecurity and social neglect. Madam, it is deeply ironical that those who fight malnutrition are themselves under-paid and malnourished. So, I request the hon. Central Government to revise the honorariums immediately, linking them to inflation. Secondly, the Central Government should extend social security, pension, and insurance coverage to them and recognise the nature of their work as essential public service. Lastly, let them hold the consultations with the State Governments to ensure uniform minimum standards across the country.

Thank you.