

Title: Agitation by Anganwadi women workers and helpers at Jantar Mantar, pressing their demands.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (MIDNAPORE): Sir, thousands of *Anganwadi* women workers and helpers under the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) are demonstrating in Jantar Mantar today to draw the attention of the Government of India to their genuine demands. *Anganwadi* women workers and helpers are created by the Government of India for the ICDS in the Department of Women and Child under the Ministry of Human Resource Development. *Anganwadi* workers are presently burdened with more work than that of in the initial days. They play a crucial role in imparting pre-school education to ICDS. More than 12 million children between the age of three and five from the disadvantaged groups are participating in the ICDS. So far as the ICDS is concerned, officers, supervisors and drivers are all recognised and considered as Government employees but not the ICDS workers and helpers. Hence, I draw the attention of the hon. Minister - hon. Minister himself is present here - if he desires, he can set up a committee to look into the issue and consider their genuine demands so that they can be regularised.