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Title: Problems being faced by anganwadi teachers and helpers in the Country.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : Yes, Sir, I was just trying to look at the names of the speakers on the Finance Bill.

Thank you very much, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to speak. I would just like to draw the attention of this House towards the plight of the Anganwadi workers in the entire country. First of all, I would like to congratulate the Government and the Finance Minister for increasing their salary by Rs.500 and also the salary of the helpers by Rs.250.

Sir, these Anganwadi workers are being asked by the Administration to travel long distances to reach their work places and they are also not being paid the Travel Allowances. Besides this, the State Governments compel them to do a number of other works like conducting survey or making Self-Help Groups and so on. They do not have the fixed working hours. They are also being asked to purchase the register. I was surprised to see in my State these workers are given 5g of oil to prepare snack or *nashtha* for a child. Per child 5g cooking oil is being given to them. Besides that the quality of food-grain or other snacks that are being supplied to them is not good at all. Since the recruitment policy is with the State Government, they are a very vulnerable section of the society. They cannot even say that they have been given a meager amount of Rs.1000, which has, of course, now been increased recently.

I would request the Government that payment of their salary with the increase of Rs.500, that has recently been made, should start from the month of June onwards. The situation is very bad. I would request the Union Government to frame some rules for their recruitment and also have some mechanism to resolve the grievances of Anganwadi workers throughout the country. They are in such a vulnerable situation where they have been paid a meager amount and are being made to work very hard.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (MIDNAPORE): Mr. Speaker, Sir,

MR. SPEAKER: You can associate with him.

Shri Punnu Lal Mohale – Not present.