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title: Need to address the problems faced by nurses of private hospitals.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): Thank you very much, Madam, for giving me an opportunity. ...(*Interruptions*)

My subject is also the same. Lakhs of nurses are now on the streets. They are going on a hunger strike. In Kerala, the situation is very pathetic. ...(*Interruptions*)

We call the nurses, 'Angels of Gods' because their service is very much commendable and desirable. Without their service, no hospital can function. Throughout day and night, they are working in the hospitals. That is why the Supreme Court has given a clear direction that at least Rs. 20,000 should be the salary. They are getting a mere Rs. 3,000 or Rs. 4,000. This is a very bad state of affairs. Therefore, there is a need of interference from the Government. ...(*Interruptions*)

There is already a Supreme Court verdict. Therefore, I am seeking an intervention from the Union Health Minister. The Health Minister is also here. I am only seeking an intervention from the Union Government for a minimum salary of at least Rs. 20,000.

As far as the Supreme Court verdict is concerned, in hospitals having more than 200 beds, they should get Rs. 27,900 to Rs. 59,400; in hospitals which have 100 to 200 beds, they should get Rs. 25,110 to Rs. 53,460; and in hospitals which have less than 100 beds, they must get not less than Rs. 20,000. What are they getting now? It is only Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 4,000. What is this state of affairs? ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: These are private hospitals.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Yes, they are private hospitals. They are utilising the services of these nurses. ...(*Interruptions*) Therefore, we need an intervention from the Government. We are seeking an intervention from the Government. The Government should interfere. I am seeking an intervention from the Health Minister to save these 'Angels of Gods'. Thank you. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You can associate. Everybody cannot speak on the same issue.

...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER:

Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri K.C. Venugopal.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): Madam Speaker, this is a very serious issue related to the salaries of the nurses in the private sector.

Last year, in the month of February, we had formed a committee. That committee had deliberated in the month of February and then in the month of April. After the deliberations, the committee came out with a very specific report.

In the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, as directed by the hon. Prime Minister, we were very proactive in this direction. The committee has said very clearly that the salary of the nurses of 200-bedded hospitals should be equivalent to the Government hospital salaries. That has been recommended. ...(*Interruptions*)

If the institution has got less than 100 beds, ten per cent less than the Government salary will be there. If it is a less than 50-bedded hospital, less than 25 per cent from the Government salary will be there. This has been recommended by the committee.

The committee has also recommended that not less than Rs. 20,000 should be given to the nurses. We have given the advice and directions to the States that they should make the guidelines and rules accordingly and see to it that the nurses get this much salary. This has been done by the Government in the month of November. We have asked the States to comply and send back the report to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Now, it is the responsibility of the States....(*Interruptions*) Be it any State Government, represented by any political Party, all have to adhere to it and see to it that the States comply according to the recommendations of the Committee.â€ (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister has said that it is the responsibility of the State Government. You go to the State Government

...(*Interruptions*)