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Title: Regarding the problems of contractual staff working under the National Health Mission.

SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA (BALASORE): Thank you, Madam Speaker, for allowing me to raise an issue which concern about 20 lakh people in our country who are working under National Health Mission including about 70,000 people in our State of Odisha.

Before I proceed, I would like to thank hon. Prime Minister Shri Modiji who has been extremely kind to recognise the contribution made by the people working in National Health Mission. I would like to quote what the hon. Prime Minister has said: "These remarkable successes in the field of maternal and child health have been possible through our National Health Mission." Obviously, the credit goes to the people who have made it possible.

Having said that, let me come to one such incident that has happened in the State of Odisha. One Shri Siva Prasad Sahoo, working in Nabarangpur in Odisha met with an accident while coming back from work and unfortunately lost his life. When his family members went for compensation, unfortunately, they have been denied. We all know the significant contribution made by the people working in NHM. The people who are working in NHM whether they are ASHA workers or DPM and the paramedics, they have got untold miseries because several laws of the land are violated in the process. I would like to name one or two. The EPF Act states that contractual employees are eligible to enrol in PF and the liability for which lies with the Principal Employer. The Principal Employer in this case is the Government of India. This Act is applicable to all who have hired more than 20 persons. Here, we are talking about 20 lakh people. The ASHA worker earns a wage of Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 4,000. Even the minimum wages applicable in several States are violated. They are asked to sign on the dotted line for 11 months. After 11 months, they are made to go up legally. Then there is a break of one day and after that again he continues for 11 months. So, the process goes on and on.

In view of this, I would urge upon the Union Government to consider this. This is a very important subject. I would also request the Government to implement some of my suggestions. First, regularise all those who are working as a contractual employer under National Health Mission. Second, everyone should be provided PF, ESI, accidental benefits and all required security measures. Third, we should amend the Act to make Principal Employer responsible for compliance with all labour laws of the country. Lastly, India must sign major convention C131 of ILO which guarantees minimum wage fixing compensation.

Madam, we all know how much strikes cost our country. September 2, 2015, there was a general strike which cost our nation 25,000 crore rupees. So, let us buy peace and ensure the social security and the dignity of all those who are working in NHM.

Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri Roadmal Nagar, Shri Sudheer Gupta, Shri Alok Sanjar and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are allowed to associate with the matter raised by Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena.

**12.56 hours**

#### **MATTERS UNDER RULE 377 \***

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, we will now take up matters under Rule 377. Hon. Members, the matters under Rule 377 shall be laid on the Table of the House. Members who have been permitted to raise matters under Rule 377 today and are desirous of laying them may personally hand over the text of the matter at the Table of the House within 20 minutes. Only those matters shall be treated as laid for which text of the matter has been received at the Table within the stipulated time. The rest will be treated as lapsed