

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Lahar Singh Siroya; demand for boosting destination wedding economy in Bharat.

Demand to boost Destination Wedding Economy in Bharat

SHRI LAHAR SINGH SIROYA (Karnataka): Sir, I draw attention to the potential and creating awareness about destination weddings in India and its impacts on our economy. Recently, hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke about rich families celebrating destination wedding in foreign locations and urged citizens to choose Bharat as their wedding destination. There is a great possibility of creating destination wedding economy in Bharat.

While weddings are traditionally viewed as personal celebrations, their collective impact on the economy is substantial. Wedding festivities contribute significantly to the thriving service sector such as banquet halls, hotels, event management, catering, floral decoration, travel services, photography, music orchestras etc. Hon. Chairman, Sir, the consumption of these diverse services generates numerous job opportunities.

According to estimates from the Confederation of All India Traders, around 5,000 destination weddings are held abroad each year with an estimated expenditure of Rs. 50,000 crore. This trend underscores the need for concerted efforts to retain these celebrations within our country. Bharat boasts a plethora of enchanting locales, ranging from breath-taking natural landscapes, sacred temple towns to royal palaces and secluded islands. These places have the potential to become destinations not only for Indian weddings but also for international events. The spiritual aspect and civilizational interest of our land will further attract foreign nationals and Indians staying abroad.

I urge the Government to take proactive initiatives such as policy formulation, creation of dedicated portal, or launch of an informative campaign, which would raise awareness about the possibilities of hosting destination weddings within our country and contributing positively to our economy.

DR. FAUZIA KHAN (Maharashtra): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention raised by hon. Member.

DR. JOHN BRITTAS (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention raised by hon. Member.

SHRI ABIR RANJAN BISWAS (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention raised by hon. Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The next speaker is Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham; Demand for enhancement of salary and other service benefits of Anganwadi employees.

**Demand for enhancement of salary and other service benefits to Anganwadi
Employees**

SHRIMATI JEBI MATHER HISHAM (Kerala): Sir, the Anganwadi workers and helpers who are shouldering the immense responsibility of catering to the nutritional and various other developmental needs of the children and also to the nutritional programmes for the adolescent girls and pregnant women, are now in distress. There is no hike in their salary for the past seven years. The present monthly salary of Anganwadi helpers is Rs. 12,000 and that of Anganwadi workers is Rs. 8,000 in Kerala. This should be enhanced to a minimum of Rs. 21,000. There should be a provision to bring about their salary revision along with that of Government employees. Even though subscription amount is being collected towards Anganwadi workers' and helpers' welfare fund, benefits are not enhanced in accordance with the amount collected.

Anganwadi employees are facing various difficulties in performing their duties on a daily basis. They are not given performance grant for the data collection work in respect of various programmes and projects implemented at various levels starting from the Panchayat level. Since all of them do not have smartphones, they find it practically difficult to upload this data. Every expense including the payment of electricity and water bills of the Anganwadi centres, travel expenses for attending official meetings, etc., have to be borne by them, which is burdening them even more.

In this context, I urge the Central Government to appoint a high-level Commission to study the factual position and to make necessary recommendations for the betterment of Anganwadi helpers and workers.

SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention raised by hon. Member.

DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention raised by hon. Member.