

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:379
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2002
PAYMENT OF WAGES TO HELPLESS LABOUR FORCE
PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware of the cases of gross under payment of wages to the helpless labour force by contractors who provide labour to various Government Undertakings;
- (b) if so, action taken in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government Undertakings are permitted to engage labour itself on contract basis on payment of minimum wages; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) of LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 379 FOR 16.12. REGARDING PAYMENT OF WAGES TO HELPLESS LABOUR FORCE.

- (a) & (b) : To safeguard the interest of workers primarily engaged in the unorganized sector, the minimum wages are fixed under the Minimum Wages Act both by the Central and State Governments in respect of scheduled employments in their respective jurisdictions. As and when any case of short payment or non-payment of minimum wages is reported or detected during the course of inspection conducted by the officers of the Central/State Industrial Relations Machinery, legal action by way of filing of claim cases, prosecution etc. are initiated. Further, the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970, provides that in case there is a default by a contractor in payment of wages or short payment of wages, the principal employer is liable to pay the same to the contract labour.
- (c): There is no bar on the Government Undertakings to engage labour directly on contract basis on payment of minimum wages.
- (d): Does not arise.