

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4169

ANSWERED ON:03.08.2009

SUICIDE BY CONTRACTUAL EMPLOYEES

Bapurao Shri Khatgaonkar Patil Bhaskarrao;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of contractual employees of a hospital in Haldwani have committed suicides recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Union Government has conducted an inquiry in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details and outcome thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) to (e): A Statement is annexed.

Statement referred to in reply to Parts (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4169 to be answered on 03-08-2009 raised By SHRI EKNATH M. GAIKWAD: SHRI B.B. PATIL: SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI.

The incident of suicide attempt by contract labourers of Dr. Sushila Tewary Memorial Forest Medical Hospital Trust had come to the notice of Ministry of Labour & Employment. Office of the Regional Labour Commissioner (Central), Dehradun was directed to investigate the matter. The details are as under:-

(I) A mass suicide attempt had taken place at Tikonia Park, Haldwani, Distt.- Nainital wherein 20 no. of unemployed casual workers including five women tried to commit suicide by consuming poison in public. The workers were demanding reinstatement as daily wages workmen. These persons were earlier employed as contract workmen under two different contractors who were engaged for providing manpower for patient care and sweeping/cleaning, respectively. The contract for sweeping/cleaning was terminated in January, 09 and reallocated to another contractor who employed new set of workers. The job of patient care continues with the same contractor since 2002.

(II) The Hospital management has denied that it ever assured for reemployment or reinstatement directly under the Trust. The workers were stated to be unwilling to work as contract workmen. Under the circumstances, it appeared to be a result of frustration following their inability to get a response from the hospital management over their demand.

(III) The Hospital is managed by a Trust under the State Forest Department. Accordingly, Govt. of Uttrakhand is the appropriate Government under the ID Act, 1947. A formal dispute was raised by the workmen in October 2008 before the Dy. Labour Commissioner, Haldwani. There were two rounds of discussions. As there was no settlement, failure of conciliation report was submitted to the Govt. of Uttrakhand. The Govt. of Uttrakhand, in turn, referred the matter to the State Industrial Tribunal in June, 2009. The dispute is pending in the Tribunal.