

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4908
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2012
WAGES TO MANUAL SCAVENGERS
Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun

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

- (a) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding the wages being paid to manual scavengers in most States is lower than the set amount according to the minimum wages Act;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is taking any steps to ensure that they are paid the right amount for the work they do;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE)

- (a) & (b): Under the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 both the Central and State Governments are the appropriate Governments to fix and revise the minimum wages in the scheduled employments under their respective jurisdictions. The Central Government has not received any complaint regarding the wages being paid to manual scavengers in most of the States being lower than the minimum wages fixed for this category.
- (c) to (e): Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, in the Central Sphere, the enforcement is carried out through the Inspecting Officers of the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) Compliance in the State sphere is ensured through the State Enforcement Machinery. The designated officers conduct regular inspections and in the event of detection of any case of non-payment or under-payment of minimum wages, they advise the employers to make payment of the shortfall of wages. In case of non-compliance, penal provisions against the defaulting employers are also invoked.