

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4956

ANSWERED ON:07.05.2012

MINIMUM WAGES ACT

Ganpatrao Shri Jadhav Prataprao; Rama Devi Smt.

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

- (a) the percentage of labourers working in unorganised sector out of the total number of labourers in the country at present;
- (b) whether all such labourers from the unorganised sector have been brought under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the action being taken by the Government to provide minimum wages to all the labourers in the country?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c): According to the Report of National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), out of the total number of workers in the country 94% are in the unorganized sector. At present, the Act is applicable to workers in the scheduled employment notified under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. However, there is a proposal to cover all the workers under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.

(d): Under the Minimum Wages Act, there are separate enforcement machineries in the Central and States spheres. In the Central Sphere, enforcement is secured through the Inspecting Officers of the office of Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) commonly designated as Central Industrial Relations Machinery (CIRM). The 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 invoked.