

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:461

ANSWERED ON:23.11.2009

MINIMUM WAGES TO LABOURERS

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

(a) whether the Government has engaged private agencies for cleaning and collecting garbage in major cities and Central Government offices;

(b) if so, whether proper wages and other facilities are being extended to the labourers engaged for the said works;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the number of cases of non-payment of minimum wages and providing facilities registered during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and

(d) the action taken by the Government against agencies found guilty alongwith the outcome thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): According to information received from Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure, various Ministries/Departments have been empowered to outsource certain services in the interest of economy and efficiency without contravening the basic guidelines as contained in the General Financial Rules.

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 fixed the minimum rates of wages for workers employed in the scheduled employment "Employment of Sweeping and Cleaning excluding activities prohibited under the Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993" in the Central sphere vide Notification in the Official Gazette S.O. No. 1994(E) dated 7th August, 2008. On the basis of the information available, the statement giving the minimum rates of wages fixed for workers engaged in sweeping/cleaning activities by the Union Government and State Governments/Union Territory Administrations is at Annexure - I. The enforcement of the Act is secured at two levels. While in the Central sphere, the enforcement is secured through the Inspecting Officers of the 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. They 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.

Details regarding enforcement of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 during 2005 - 06 to 2007 - 08, as available in respect of all employments, is given at Annexure - II (a to c).