

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5463
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2013
FACILITIES TO SANITATION WORKERS
Singh Shri Pashupati Nath

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

- (a) whether the Government has engaged private agencies for collecting garbage and sanitation works in various parts of the country including metro cities and Government offices;
- (b) if so, whether the workers and Safai Karamcharies engaged in the above work are getting proper salary/wages and other facilities;
- (c) if not, the number of cases of violation reported with regard to non-payment of wages during the last three years along with the names of the agencies found guilty;
- (d) the action taken by the Government against such agencies; and
- (e) the various welfare and social security schemes implemented particularly for such sanitation workers in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH)

(a) Public health and sanitation is a State Subject and it is the responsibility of the State Governments and Urban Local Bodies to plan, design, implement, operate and maintain waste management system. Some of the Urban Local Bodies are engaging private contractors/ private sectors in some of the activities of collection, segregation, street sweeping, transportation and treatment of waste.

(b) to (d) Under the provision of Minimum Wages Act, 1948, both Central and State Governments are appropriate Governments to fix, review and revise the minimum wages for different categories of workers employed in the scheduled employment under their respective jurisdictions. In Central Sphere the area-wise rates of minimum wages fixed for sweeping and cleaning work with effect from 01.04.2013 are Rs. 297/- in Area A, Rs.246/- in Area B and Rs.198/- in Area C.

It is the responsibility of the State Governments to take action for violation of labour laws relating to non-payment of salary and wages against agencies/employers falling in State Sphere. In Central Sphere the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) Organization enforces the provision of various labour laws and takes appropriate action for violation of labour laws.

(e) The Central Government has enacted the Unorganised Workers Social Security Act, 2008 for social security of unorganized workers which includes sanitation workers. The Act provides for formulation of schemes by the Central Government for different sections of unorganised workers on matters relating to life and disability cover, health and maternity benefits and old age protection. The Act also provides for formulation of schemes by State Governments relating to provident fund, employment injury benefits, housing, educational schemes for children, skill upgradation etc.