

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6284  
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2013  
MANUAL SCAVENGING  
Gandhi Smt. Maneka Sanjay

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

- (a) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding the wages paid to manual scavengers in most States being 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; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(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 employment under their respective jurisdiction. Manual scavenging/sweeping comes within the purview of both Central and State Governments. Central Government has not received any complaint that the wages being paid to scavengers is lower than the minimum wages in most of the States/Union Territories. A statement showing rates of minimum wages for scavengers/ Safai Karamcharis based on available information in respect of the Centre and the States is enclosed at Annexure -I.

(c) & (d) The implementation of Minimum Wages Act is carried out by the Centre as well as the States in respect of their respective jurisdictions. 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. Data on enforcement of minimum wage in respect of specific employments included in the Schedule are not maintained. However, the same for the State as a whole are available which is given in Annexure -II for the year 2010-11.