

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:50
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2013
WORKERS IN GARBAGE DISPOSAL
Singh Shri Ratan;Vasava Shri Mansukhbhai D.

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

- (a) whether private agencies have been engaged for garbage disposal and cleaning works in big cities/Government offices etc.;
- (b) if so, whether the workers and safai karmcharis engaged in the said work are given prescribed salary and other facilities;
- (c) if not, the number of cases of irregularities brought to light in this regard along with the names of agencies found guilty during the last three years and the current year;
- (d) the action taken by the Government against the said agencies during the said period along with the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government for the welfare of such workers in the country?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION No. 50 TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.12.2013 REGARDING WORKERS IN GARBAGE DISPOSAL BY SHRI RATAN SINGH, SHRI MANSUKH BHAI D. VASAVA.

(a): The employment of workers through private agencies for garbage disposal and cleaning work is permitted unless specifically prohibited by the appropriate Government under Section 10 of the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970. The provisions of this Act are applicable to agencies employing 20 or more contract labour.

(b): The interest of workers and Safai Karamcharies engaged in the said work by the said agencies in terms of wages and other facilities is safeguarded under the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970 and Rules made therein, Minimum Wages Act, 1948, Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 and Payment of Wages Act, 1936 and other labour laws. As per the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act and Rules made therein, the wages of the Safai Karamcharies shall not be less than the rates prescribed under Minimum Wages Act, 1948 and in cases where these workers perform the same or similar kind of work as the workmen directly employed by the principal employer of the establishment, the wage rates, holidays, hours of work and other condition of service shall be the same as applicable to the workmen directly employed by the principal employer during the same or similar kind of work.

(c) & (d): There are specific provisions of penalties against defaulting employers/contractors for protection of these workers under the above Acts. Disaggregated data in terms of placement agencies engaging Safai Karamcharies is not maintained centrally. However, the enforcement figures for violation of provisions of these Acts in all activities under the central sphere including garbage disposal and cleaning for the past 3 years are enclosed at Annexure-A.

(e): Government has framed various labour laws for the welfare of these workers namely, Employees' Provident Fund & Misc. Provisions Act, 1952, Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995, Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, Minimum Wages Act, 1948, Payment of Wages Act, 1936, Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, Employees Compensation Act, 1923, Labour Welfare Fund Acts (i) The Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1976 (ii) The Limestone and Dolomite Mine Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1972 (iii) The Iron Ore Mines, Manganese Ore Mines and Chrome Ore Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1976 (iv) The Mica Mine Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1946 and (v) The Cine Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1981, Mines Act, 1952, Factories Act, 1948, Industrial Dispute Act, 1947, Trade Union Act, 1926. Further Safai Karamcharies have been extended Health Insurance Cover under Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) with effect from 04.06.2013.