

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1001

ANSWERED ON:02.03.2015

PRIVATE AGENCIES FOR COLLECTING GARBAGE

Naik Prof. Seetaram Ajmeera

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

- (a) whether the Government has engaged private agencies for collecting garbage and sanitation work in various parts of the country including metro cities and Government offices;
- (b) if so, whether the working conditions of such workers and safai karamcharis are pitiable and dismal;
- (c) if so, the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the working conditions of sanitation workers/safai karamcharis in the country; and
- (d) the other welfare and social security schemes implemented particularly for such sanitation workers in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE(IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)

(a): Yes. It is a practice that Ministries/Departments of the Central Government maintain a core establishment of sanitation workers and engage private agencies also. However, no data is kept at the Central level regarding engagement of agencies for sanitation work.

(b) & (c): The sanitation workers are mostly engaged by the private contractors and also employed by Government and local bodies. In case of Government and local bodies, their service conditions are regulated under the relevant rules of Government and local bodies concerned. In case of contract labourers and Inter-State Migrant workers, the provisions of Contract Labour Act, 1970 and the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment & Conditions of Service) Act 1979 do prescribe working conditions for these workers. At the field levels, the Office of Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) conducts inspections under all applicable labour laws on regular intervals in Central Sphere through various field officers. The details regarding number of inspection, irregularities detected, prosecution launched etc. is enclosed at Annexure-A.

(d): The Government has enacted the Unorganized Workers' Social Security Act, 2008 for the social security and welfare of unorganized workers which includes sanitation workers. The Act lists out ten social security schemes such as:

1. Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme -by Ministry of Rural Development
2. National Family Benefit Scheme- by Ministry of Rural Development
3. Janani Suraksha Yojana -by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
4. Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme -by Ministry of Textiles
5. Handicraft Artisans' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme- by Ministry of Textiles
6. Pension to Master Craft persons -by Ministry of Textiles
7. National Scheme for Welfare of Fishermen and Training and Extension- by Ministry of Agriculture
8. Janshree Bima Yojana/9. Aam Admi Bima Yojana - by Ministry of Finance
10. Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana -by Ministry of Labour & Employment.

Besides, Ministry of Finance also implements the Swavalamban Pension Scheme for unorganized workers through the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority.

All these schemes together take care of the social security and welfare needs of the workers in the unorganised sector including the Sanitation workers.