

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2610
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2014
MANUAL SCAVENGING
Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun

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 what is the set amount according to the Minimum Wages Act, 1948;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government is taking any steps to ensure that such workers are paid the right amount for the work they do; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR STEEL, MINES, LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI)

(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 jurisdictions. This Ministry 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.

(c) & (d): In the Central Sphere, the enforcement is secured through the Inspecting Officers of the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) under 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.