

Irregularities in payment to workers in CWG projects

1644. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaints of gross irregularities in the payment of minimum wages to the workers involved in the Commonwealth Games projects;

(b) if so, the status thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that workers have been paid wages between Rs. 110 and Rs. 130 per day instead of the stipulated Rs. 203 and on some sites they have been paid a weekly wage of Rs. 300-400 while contractors pocketed rest of the amount;

(d) whether it is also a fact that workers have been denied weekly off during the construction activities in Commonwealth Games, 2010; and

(e) the action taken/being taken by Government against the erring contractors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (e) Regular inspections were conducted by officials of the Central Industrial Relations Machinery (CIRM) in order to ensure that all statutory provisions were complied by contractors and the interest of contract workers involved in various Commonwealth Games related construction projects was safeguarded. However, some complaints have been received during the course of inspection and some cases of violation of payment of less than minimum wages were detected. In such cases, contractors were issued show cause notice and appropriate action taken including initiating prosecution against defaulters.

The details relating to number of inspections, prosecution cases filed, claim cases filed and amount recovered and disbursed during January, 2008 to September, 2010 in this regard is given in the Statement (*See below*).

There is no such complaint regarding denial of weekly off to the workers. If the workers have been asked to work on weekly holidays, they have been given substituted weekly off on any other day.

Statement

Irregularities in payment to workers in CWG Projects.

(a) Details of Inspections, Prosecution Cases and Claim Cases Filed Period — January, 2008 to September, 2010

Name of Act	No. of inspections made	Compliance verified	No. of court cases filed	Cases under process
Minimum Wages Act, 1948	779	79	485	215

(b) Details of Claims under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 Period — January, 2008 to September, 2010

No. of cases filed (Rs.)	Amount of claim (Rs.)	Cases decided (Rs.)	Amount awarded (Rs.)	Amount recovered and disbursed (Rs.)	Amount under process (Rs.)
337	17957000	304	10573308	4430074	6143234

Note: 25 cases involving an amount of Rs. 542000/- is detected as non-payment of overtime wages to workers out of which 7 cases disposed off involving an amount of Rs. 88489/- and the rest of cases are in final stage.

(c) Details of Convictions and Fines Imposed Period — January, 2008 to September, 2010

No. of convictions	Total fine imposed (Rs.)
291	1384500

Minimum wages for beedi workers

1645. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government declared minimum wages for the beedi workers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise list with a comparison of minimum wages of other workers;
- (c) whether Government has made any study to ascertain that the beedi workers do get the minimum wages as declared;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (e) Under the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, both the Central Government and the State Governments are the appropriate Governments to fix, revised and enforce minimum wages in the scheduled employments under their respective jurisdiction. Beedi workers fall under the purview of State sphere, wherein, the State Governments as the appropriate Governments have fixed the minimum rates of wages for them under their respective jurisdiction.

A comparative Statement giving minimum rates of wages fixed for beedi workers *vis-a-vis* unskilled workers and in different States/Union Territories is given in the Statement-I (See below).

The enforcement of the Act is secured at two level. While in the Central sphere, the