

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT**

RAJYA SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1553
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.03.2020**

WORKING CONDITIONS OF JOURNALISTS IN THE COUNTRY

1553. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA:

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

- (a) the details of statutes governing the working conditions including salary, perks etc. of journalists in the country;**
- (b) whether the print and electronic media persons and journalists are covered under the Minimum Wages Act, Provident Fund, ESI pension scheme(s) and social security schemes; and**
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)**

(a) to (c): The Working Journalists and Other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1955 [WJ Act], inter alia, covers under its ambit conditions of employment of working journalists.

The WJ Act addresses the issues of minimum period of notice, gratuity, provident fund, settlement of industrial disputes, leave with pay, hours of work and minimum wages. The WJ Act also provides for setting up of Wage Boards for giving recommendations relating to fixation and revision of rates of wages in respect of working journalists and non-journalist newspaper/news agency employees.

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The primary responsibility for implementation of recommendations lies with the State Governments/UTs. The State Governments send the Quarterly Progress Report to the Ministry and also gear up the State Labour Enforcement Machinery to ensure speedy and prompt implementation of the recommendations of the Wage Boards. The Ministry has a Central Level Monitoring Committee to oversee the implementation of Wage Board Recommendations by the States.

“The Working Journalists and Other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1955”, has been subsumed into “Occupational, Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2019” which was introduced in Lok Sabha on 23.07.2019. The definition of the "Working Journalist" in the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2019 takes in its fold, not only those journalists who are working in newspaper establishments, but also those in the electronic media.
