GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2493
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.03.2021

ILO REPORT ON INDIAN WORKERS

2493. SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a recent ILO report has shown that Indians workers have one of the lowest average wages and yet they work for longer hours than most nations;
(b) if so, the reason why Indian employers are deprived so much and paid less;
(c) the steps have been taken by Government to prevent exploitation of Indian workers; and
(d) how the provisions of the new labour codes would address the exploitation of workers by employers?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): The ILO report titled 'Global Wage Report 2020-21: Wages and minimum wages in the time of COVID-19' is available at ILO's official website.

The Report inter-alia, comments on various issues including on Indian workers having low average wages, longer hours as well as that the workers in Asia and the Pacific enjoyed the highest real wage growth among all regions over the period 2006–19, with India leading the way along with other countries. Further, while comparing average wage, the report has taken into account the National Floor Level Minimum Wage which is Rs.176/- per day. However, actual wages are far higher. If the median of the minimum wages in different states is drawn, it would be Rs.269/- per day in the country.

The Code on Wages, 2019 which has been notified on 8th August, 2019 universalises and creates a statutory right of minimum wages for all workers whether in organized or unorganised sector. A new concept of statutory floor wage has also been introduced in the Code on Wages. The Code also provides that the minimum wages are to be ordinarily reviewed and revised by the appropriate Governments in intervals not exceeding five years.

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