

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2750  
ANSWERED ON 16TH MARCH, 2023**

**WORKERS AT TOLL PLAZAS**

**2750. SHRI RAVIKUMAR D.:**

**Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS**

सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री

**be pleased to state:**

- (a) the number of contract workers working on toll plazas which are functioning on National Highways in Tamil Nadu;**
- (b) whether the Government has instructed the contractors to lay off the workers and if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the Government is aware that services of about 56 employees have been terminated illegally by the contractors at the toll plazas of Sengurichi in Kallakurichi district and Thirumandurai in Perambalur district of Tamil Nadu; and**
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?**

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS**

**(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)**

- (a) There are a total of 4934 contract workers engaged by the Concessionaires/ Fee collecting agencies at all the fee plazas operational in the State of Tamil Nadu.**
- (b) No, Sir.**
- (c) & (d) Sengurichi and Thirumandurai fee Plazas fall in Ulundurpet – Padalur section of NH-38 (Old NH-45), 4-laning of which was completed under Build Operate Transfer (Toll) mode. Operation and Management of**

**Toll Plaza is responsibility of the Concessionaire as per Concession Agreement between Concessionaire and Authority. User fee at both these fee Plazas is being collected by the Concessionaire, M/s Trichy Tollways Pvt. Ltd. (TTPL) by engaging manpower supply agencies from time to time.**

**It was reported by the Concessionaire that consequent to the implementation of Electronic Toll Collection through FASTag, the entire strength of the existing personnel manning the User-fee collection booths was not required and accordingly, after analyzing the requirement, 56 personnel deployed through the Manpower Supply Agency were retrenched. It was also reported by the Concessionaire that retrenchment of the surplus personnel was done as per the procedure laid down under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 after payment of eligible compensation to the retrenched personnel.**

**The user fee collection was completely disrupted by the retrenched personnel from 01.10.2022. Concessionaire filed Writ Petition in the Hon'ble High Court of Madras, seeking Police Protection for smooth operation of the fee Plazas. Hon'ble High Court of Madras has taken a serious view of the matter and vide order dated 04.10.2022 and 13.10.2022 directed the District Administration to provide adequate protection at the Toll to ensure smooth operation of the user-fee collection, on payment of necessary charges to the Police Department. Accordingly, the Police have provided protection to both the fee Plazas.**

**ETC Collection has been resumed on 04.10.2022. Partial Cash collection was allowed from 16.10.2022 and 100% from 01.11.2022 with Police protection as per the orders of Hon'ble High Court of Madras. The strike was withdrawn on 23.11.2022 and Toll operations are running smoothly since then. The Police Protection also withdrawn now. Writ Petition is pending for disposal.**

**Labour Union has also filed a Writ Petition in the Hon'ble High Court of Madras seeking directions to quash the retrenchment, which is pending for disposal.**

**It is also submitted that the issue of retrenchment of personnel is an internal matter of the Management of the Concessionaire and the Manpower Supply Agency based on the requirements to run the user fee Plazas.**

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