

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS
(DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL & TRAINING)

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5257
(ANSWERED ON 02.04.2025)

REGULARISATION OF LONG-TERM CONTRACTUAL WORKERS

5257. DR. BACHHAV SHOBHA DINESH:

Will the **PRIME MINISTER** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of tragic case of Shri Rajendra Salunkhe, a forest department worker in Nashik, who self-immolated on January 31st due to alleged job insecurity and neglect;
- (b) if so, the details along with the immediate financial and medical aid provided to his family following his demise;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to regularize long-term contractual workers in forest department to prevent such incidents in the future;
- (d) if not, the details of the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;
- (e) whether the Government has instituted an enquiry to review the issue of the administrative lapses that led to this tragedy and if so, details thereof, including findings of the investigation, and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether there are any plans to establish a structured grievance redressal mechanism and mental health support system for forest department employees; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES
AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE
(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)**

(a) to (e): Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC) have informed that they have no comments to provide in the matter as the issues pertaining to employees of forest establishment of State Governments are not dealt with by the MoEFCC.

Further, as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India, Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 do not contain any provision for regularization of contract labourers or for granting them permanent status.

(f) and (g): To address the burden of mental disorders, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India is implementing the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP) in the country under which 767 districts were sanctioned for District Mental Health Programme (DMHP) to provide facilities at the Community Health Centre (CHC) and Primary Health Centre (PHC) levels, inter-alia, include outpatient services, assessment, counselling/ psycho-social interventions, continuing care and support to persons with severe mental disorders, drugs, outreach services, ambulance services etc. One of the objectives of DMHP is to provide suicide prevention services, work place stress management, life skills training and counselling in schools and colleges. In addition to the above, the Government is also taking steps to strengthen mental

healthcare services at primary healthcare level. Mental health services have been added in the package of services under Comprehensive Primary Health Care provided at these Ayushman Arogya Mandirs.

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India has also formulated the country's first National Suicide Prevention Strategy. The details of the Strategy are available on the website of the Ministry.

(<https://mohfw.gov.in/sites/default/files/National%20Suicide%20Prevention%20Strategy.pdf>).
