

Sl. No.	State	2018-19
7.	Karnataka	763
8.	Madhya Pradesh	4910
9.	Maharashtra	8122
10.	Nagaland	111
11.	Punjab	915
12.	Rajasthan	0
13.	Tamil Nadu	2534
14.	Telangana	935
15.	Uttar Pradesh	8020
16.	West Bengal	17137

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?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF 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.

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.

Committee appointed for study the issues of EPF pensioners

1554. SHRI SYED NASIR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has initiated action for implementation of the recommendations of the committee appointed for study of the issues of EPF pensioners and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government proposes to increase the minimum pension for EPF pensioners and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government also proposes to stop the realisation of amount from the pension on account of commutation of pension after realising the commuted amount and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As per recommendations made by High Empowered Monitoring Committee constituted by the Government for complete evaluation and review of Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995, the Government vide Notification G.S.R. No. 132(E) dated 20.02.2020 has implemented a recommendation regarding restoration to normal pension after completion of fifteen years from the date