

# Alliance of Indian Wastepickers

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8<sup>th</sup> April, 2016

To

Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot  
Honourable Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment  
Government of India.

Subject: Inclusion of wastepickers for the proposed pension programme to be announced on 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Baba Saheb Ambedkar

Dear Sir,

We acknowledge and are grateful for your ministry's initiative to include children of wastepickers in the scholarship programme instituted for the educational support given to 'children of parents in unclean occupation'. Recently, we came to know that ministry is planning to launch an occupation based pension programme.

This letter is in regards to the same proposed occupation based pension programme for *Safai Karmacharis* to be launched by your ministry, for the celebration of 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Baba Saheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar. We, the members of Alliance of Indian Wastepickers, request you to include wastepickers in the given pension programme. There are more than 25 lakh wastepickers in India. Wastepickers belong to one of most the disadvantaged economic and social groups and are discriminated on the basis of caste, class and occupation. They play an important role in keeping our cities clean and according to varying estimates they send around 10,000 -100,000 Metric Tons of dry waste for recycling. For acknowledging the role played by wastepickers, Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan and relevant waste management guidelines and rules i.e. Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 & Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 have suggested their inclusion in waste management.

Wastepicking is an up-gradable vocation like that of Safai Karmacharis- sanitary/health workers, therefore their inclusion in the scheme will be appreciated.

We request you to pursue for their inclusion by having them listed as supported occupational group for the given pension programme. We request you to make it non-contributory and centrally funded

indexed pensions, so that wastepickers in their old age live with dignity. This will be another milestone in the struggle for social and economic justice of historically disadvantaged social groups.

Members of Alliance of Indian Wastepickers:

- 1. Asangthit Shramik Mahila Sanghthan, Indore, Madhya Pradesh**
- 2. Chintan Environmental Research & Advocacy, Delhi**
- 3. Hasiru Dala, Bengaluru, Karnataka**
- 4. Janvikas Society, Indore, Madhya Pradesh**
- 5. Kagad Kach Patra Kashtakari Panchayat, Pune, Maharashtra**
- 6. Parisar Bhagini Vikas Sangha, Mumbai and Thane, Maharashtra**
- 7. Parisar Sakhi Vikas Sangathana, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra**
- 8. Safai Sena, Delhi**
- 9. Stree Mukti Sangthana, Mumbai, Maharashtra**
- 10. Sarvoday Shramik Mahila Sahkari Sakh Sanstha, Indore, Madhya Pradesh**