

Seventeenth Loksabha

>

Title: Regarding salaries and wages of employees and workers of Asiatic Society of Mumbai-laid.

SHRI ARVIND SAWANT (MUMBAI SOUTH): Asiatic Society of Mumbai is not only a Library but a treasure of Mumbai. The Society has a rich collection of books and many rare and valuable manuscripts such as Kalpasutra, Shahanama, Palm Leaf in Sanskrit, Pali, Arabic and Persian. Their "Numismatic" collection of about 12,000 coins includes gold coins dating back to Samudra Gupta and of the Mughal period. The Society is proud of having in their possession the unique Sopara Buddhist relics. Many scholars from all corners of the country and even from overseas visit the Society's library to access rare reference material. This institution has achieved such pride only because of its employees/workers who have immensely contributed for the betterment of this institution. However, due to the financial crisis being faced by this institution, presently, it has become difficult for the Management to pay the full salaries and wages of their employees and workers. The employees are getting 45% of salaries. The Asiatic Society, Kolkata got the status of an Institution of National Importance in the year 1984. If the Asiatic Society in Mumbai which is 217 years old is granted the same status, all the issues will be resolved. I expect your generous and judicious remedial action at the earliest.