

**Short Notice Questions and Answers**  
**Minimum Wages in Beedi Industry**

**S.N.Q. No. 14. Shri Balakrishna Wasnik:** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether any inter-State Committee to consider the question of removing disparities in the rates of minimum wages in beedi industry fixed by certain State Governments has been convened; and

(b) if so, the decisions taken by the Committee?

**The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali):** (a) Yes.

(b) The meeting took note of the difficulties experienced by different State Governments owing to disparities in the minimum wage rates in the beedi industry and felt that the contemplated upward revision of wages in State like Madhya Pradesh and Bihar where the existing rates are comparatively low would ease the difficulties confronting the beedi industry in the adjoining States like Bombay and West Bengal.

**Shri Tangamani:** In view of the fact that beedi is also one of the items mentioned in the Minimum Wages Act, may I know whether a directive will be given to the various State Governments for fixing uniform rate of wages as per directive to the 15th Indian Labour conference?

**Shri Abid Ali:** Copies of the proceedings were sent to all the State Governments. Minimum wages have already been fixed for beedi industry also in most of the States.

**Shri Balakrishna Wasnik:** May I know whether any action is taken to remove the disparity in the wages in the different States?

**Shri Abid Ali:** Of course, that is what I have stated.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** May I know whether this committee has also considered the difficulties being faced in implementing the minimum wages which have been promulgated

in the various States and whether any measures were discussed by which they can improve matters?

**Shri Abid Ali:** There are several other committees to take care of this particular difficulty. The function of this committee was, as I have explained, to remove the disparities between the rates in the wages.

**Shri T. K. Chaudhuri:** Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the fact that the Government of West Bengal was facing certain difficulties in implementing the minimum wages fixed by its own minimum wages committee in respect of the beedi industry because of the lower-rates of wages in the beedi industry in Bihar? Some time back, there was a proposal to hold a joint conference of the Labour departments of the two Governments along with the employers and labourers. Has anything come out of that conference?

**Shri Abid Ali:** Exactly that was the purpose of this conference.

**Shri T. K. Chaudhuri:** What has come out of this conference?

**Shri Abid Ali:** I have already explained in reply to part (b) of the question.

**Shri Narayanankutty Menon:** The hon. Minister mentioned about Madhya Pradesh and Bombay. May I know whether the Government is aware that complaints have been received from the Kerala Government because the minimum wages prevailing in the beedi industry is higher than in Madras and Mysore and so the industry is dislocated and may I know whether any discussions were held there to standardise the wages in Madras and Mysore?

**Shri Abid Ali:** The representative of Kerala Government also participated in this conference.

**Shri Narayanankutty Menon:** May I know whether any measures have been taken there to standardise the wages in Madras and Mysore and whether their representatives were present and they agreed?

Shri Abid Ali: I have already explained what transpired in this conference.

The Minister of Labour, and Employment and Planning (Shri Nanda): I only wanted further to explain that steps have been taken in this direction. The States have been informed. It may be that they may have to follow up.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

##### Export of Coffee

\*1679. Shri V. C. Shukla: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the extent of success achieved by the State Trading Corporation of India (Private) Limited in promoting the export of coffee to the U.S.S.R. and the German Democratic Republic and the quantity exported so far in each case?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): Prior to 1956, the export of coffee to the U.S.S.R. and the German Democratic Republic was almost negligible.

The figures for the export after 1956 are as follows:

Period	Quantity exported to the U.S.S.R.	Quantity exported to the German Democratic Republic
1956-57	775 tons	200 tons
1957-58	725 tons	1808 tons

##### Social Security Scheme for Industrial Workers

\*1680. Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1274 on the 18th December, 1957 and state:

(a) whether the study group appointed to formulate a Comprehensive Social Security Scheme for industrial workers have since submitted their report;

(b) if so, the salient features of the scheme; and

(c) the time by which Government is likely to arrive at a decision on those recommendations?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) No.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

##### Vinay Nagar

\*1682. Shri Subiman Ghose: Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that compounds before some of the quarters at Vinay Nagar, New Delhi, particularly those having roads passing on two sides, have become public thoroughfares;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some balconies in the first floors of these quarters have been converted into kitchens by subletting and that water is thrown through the pipes from these balconies; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government in the matter?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c). A few cases have been reported where co-sharers of the accommodation used first-floor balconies as kitchens and allowed kitchen refuse to pass through the rain water pipes into the open laws. The allottees concerned were warned and in some cases they were shifted to the quarters on the ground floor. A close watch is being maintained to prevent this misuse.

##### State Trading Corporation of India (Private) Limited

\*1684. Shri Rajagopala Rao: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated earnings of the State Trading Corporation of India (Private) Limited on iron ore contracted for exports so far;

(b) whether there is any scheme with the State Trading Corporation to invest some amount out of its profits