

The Minister of Labour (Shri K. K. Desai): (a) So far as employments other than in agriculture are concerned, minimum wages have already been fixed in a large majority of the cases and it is hoped that the remaining cases too will almost all be covered by the 31st December, 1954, the target date for fixation of wages under the Act.

(b) to (d). While a few State Governments have appointed full-time Inspectors for the enforcement of the Act, others have entrusted this work to the existing inspection staff appointed under other labour enactments. The effective enforcement of an Act of this nature depends to a very great extent on the availability of an adequate inspection staff and this aspect of the matter has been brought to the notice of the State Governments.

REGIONAL INDEX NUMBERS

***1600. Shri Tulsidas:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state when the preparation of the Regional Index Numbers of wholesale prices of cereals and other agricultural commodities as recommended by the Agricultural Prices Enquiry Committee is likely to be completed?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): The concerned State authorities have been requested to furnish price data in respect of the centres recommended by the Agricultural Prices Enquiry Committee and according to the new connotation suggested by it, from January 1955. The question of constructing Region Index Number of Wholesale Prices as recommended by that Committee will, therefore, be taken up after prices data from all the centres become available on a regular basis.

LABOUR PLANTATIONS ACT (RULES)

***1601. Shri N. Sreekantan Nair:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred question No. 1518 on the 30th September, 1954, and state:

(a) whether the Rules under the Labour Plantations Act, 1951 have since been framed and promulgated by the State Government;

(b) whether Government propose to enforce the Act in the near future; and

(c) if so, when?

The Minister of Labour (Shri K. K. Desai): (a) Draft model Rules were prepared and forwarded to State Governments concerned with a request to issue them finally as early as possible. The matter is receiving their attention.

(b) and (c). The Act was brought into force on the 1st April, 1954.

METEOROLOGICAL FACILITIES FOR HIGH LEVEL FLIGHT

***1603. Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme for providing Meteorological facilities for high-level flights such as that of B.O.A.C. Comet has been finalised; and

(b) whether full facilities exist at present in our aerodromes for satisfying the meteorological service needs of high-level flying?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). With a view to providing information regarding winds and temperature to aircraft flying at high levels, a scheme for establishing a network of Radio Wind finding stations and for increasing the frequency of radiosonde observations in India has been drawn up. The scheme is being implemented by stages and will be completed by the end of 1956-57.

MORAL REARMAMENT ADMINISTRATION

***1604. Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the main activities of the Moral Re-armament Administration in India; and