

notification, for indicating their objections and suggestions in writing. The Government shall consider the objections and suggestions thus received after the expiry of the two months time before issuing final notification. It is difficult to precisely indicate a time-frame for issuing final notification at this stage as it depends on the number and nature of objections and suggestions received in this regard.

An estimated 10 lakh workers employed in more than 25 000 establishments that are covered under the Minimum Wages Act in Central sphere are entitled to the benefits of the minimum rates of wages fixed under the Act.

#### Airport at Shirdi

\*352 SHRIMATI PRAITBHA  
DEVISINGH PAITL  
SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM } Will

the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has allotted land for construction of Airport at Shirdi and has also assured to provide other necessary facilities for the purpose

(b) if so the details thereof and

(c) the decision taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) (a) to (c) The Government of Maharashtra has identified a site near Astagaon village, Taluka Kopergaon, District Ahmednagar for construction of an airport for Shirdi National Airports Authority has agreed to provide technical consultancy if the State Government would take up construction of proposed airport project.

[English]

#### Assistance to Uttar Pradesh

\*353 DR. G. L. KANAUIJA } Will  
SHRI RAM KAPSE }

the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state

(a) whether the Planning Commission had agreed to enhance the special assistance for hill areas of Uttar Pradesh during 1992-93,

(b) if so, whether the said assistance had been released, and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) (a) to (c) A provision of Rs 182.01 crores was made under the Hill Area Development Programme (HADP) in 1992-93 as Special Assistance for the hill areas of Uttar Pradesh. The amount was released to the State Government. The request of the State Government for higher allocation of Special Central Assistance could not be agreed to considering the total allocation available for Hill Area Development Programme in 1992-93.

#### Income-Tax Collection

\*354 SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have taken fresh initiative to augment income-tax collection in the country by involving State Governments and local authorities

(b) if so the details of the proposals considered in this regard and

(c) the reaction of the State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY) (a) to (c) With a view to widening the tax base and consequently augment the income-tax collection, Chief Secretaries of State Governments have been requested to ask their officers to assist and have exchange of information with the officers of Income-tax Department.

Most of the Chief Secretaries have responded favourably to the request and have assured necessary cooperation.

#### Small Savings

\*355 SHRI K. THULASIAH VANDAYAR Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether small savings from NSC, NSS, Public Provident Fund, Kisan Vikas Patra have gradually decreased over the years