

## [Translation]

Though Government had approved the proposal of constituting a Ecological Task Force in Himachal Pradesh, it could not materialise but in future priority will be given to Himachal Pradesh. So far as the question of forest fire is concerned, I would request the Himachal Pradesh Government to send the figures at the earliest so that I can present them before the House.

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 WRITTEN ANSWERS TO  
QUESTIONS

## [English]

**Efficacy of Ayurvedic Drugs**

\*185. **Dr. A. K. Patel**: Will the Minister of **Health and Family Welfare** be pleased to state :

(a) whether any tests have been conducted in the country about the efficacy of ayurvedic drugs to improve memory and learning, and

(b) if so, in which institutions such tests have been conducted and the outcome thereof?

**The Minister of Health and Family Welfare (Shri M. L. Fotedar)**:

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The efficacy of medicinal plants like Brahmi, Mandukparni, Jyotishmati, Sankhapushpi and a compound Ayurvedic preparation namely, 'Smriti Sagar Rasa' have been studied as Medhya Rasayana at Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha, Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, Gujarat Ayurved University, Jamnagar, National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur and at Kasturba Gandhi Medical College, Manipal. These drugs have been reported effective in improving Memory and Learning.

**Control over Indian Council of Historical Research**

\*187. **Shri Shankersinh Vaghela**: Will the Minister of **Human Resource Development** be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Government exercise any control over the Indian Council of Historical Research in regard to sanction of foreign trips and maintenance allowance ;

(b) if so, in what manner ; and

(c) the details of the trips sanctioned and the maintenance amount granted for the same during the last three years ?

**The Minister of Human Resource Development (Shri Arjun Singh)**: (a) and (b) The Indian Council of Historical Research gives financial assistance to scholars for undertaking foreign trips in connection with collection of source material or to present a paper at a seminar or conference. This assistance is sanctioned by its Research Projects Committee in accordance with the rules framed by the Council for this purpose. There is no representation of the Government on the Research Project Committee and approval of Government is not necessary for individual sanctions.

(c) The Council sanctioned foreign travel grants to 79 scholars during the last three years. 57 scholars have so far availed of the assistance. The Council have incurred an expenditure of Rs. 2,17,467 on maintenance and Rs. 5,92,820 on travel of these scholars.

**Poor performance of Indians in Sports**

\*189 **Shri Vijaya Naval Patil**: Will the Minister of **Human Resource Development** be pleased to state :

(a) whether the poor performance of Indians in sports, games and youth activities in comparison to other

countries is due to lack of funds and training facilities ;

(b) if so, the funds Government propose to spend on sports in the country during the decade 1991-2000 ; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to improve standard of sports and games ?

**The Minister of Human Resource Development (Shri Arjun Singh) :** (a) There are many constraints for development of sports, games and other youth activities in our country. Lack of funds and required training facilities are certainly two major constraints.

(b) The VIIIth Plan is still to be finalised. It is difficult to forecast the exact provisions that would be available in the VIIIth and IXth Five Year Plans.

(c) Government proposes to give due priority for promotion of sports and games by removing the existing constraints for their development, by making available more resources in the Eighth Plan and using them cost effectively.

[*Translation*]

### Minimum Wages

\*191. **Shri Bhogendra Jha :** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state :

(a) the minimum rate of wages in various States and Union Territories and the wages being paid particularly to agricultural labourers ;

(b) the steps being taken to ensure the payment of statutory minimum wages of labourers ;

(c) whether the Government propose to declare refusal of the payment of minimum wages a cognizable offence ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

**The Minister of State of the Ministry of Labour (Shri K. Ramamurthy) :** (a) As per the latest information available, the rates of minimum wages for agricultural workers as fixed by the various State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations under the Minimum Wages Act is given in the statement attached.

(b) The State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations are in most cases the appropriate Governments for ensuring payment of minimum wages. The enforcement is ensured through inspections by the staff of the Labour Department, inquiry into complaints, etc.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal presently to make refusal for payment of minimum wages a cognizable offence. Section 20 of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, however, provides for redressal of claims relating to the payment of such wages.

### STATEMENT

Sl.No.	States/UTs.	Minimum wages for Agricultural workers and date of effect
1	2	3
<b>States :</b>		
1.	Andhra Pradesh . . . . .	Rs. 15.00 to Rs. 19.25 p.d. (According to Zones) (8-4-91)
2.	Arunachal Pradesh . . . . .	Rs. 18.00 to Rs. 21.00 p.d. (According to Areas) (1-11-90)
3.	Assam . . . . .	Rs. 25.00 p.d. (1-8-89)