

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY): (a) and (b). According to available information, the Government of Gujarat fixed a minimum wage of Rs. 2.75 per day in 1967, and the Government of Mysore fixed a minimum wage at Rs. 2.37 per day prior to 1953. Information in respect of other States and the actual wages is not available.

(c) The State Governments have powers under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, to take action against any employer who pays wages lower than those notified under the Act.

#### Defence Service Housing Cooperatives in the country

6941. SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the Defence Services Housing Co-operatives functioning in the country;

(b) the names of the States that have agreed to set up and earmark land for setting up Defence Colonies;

(c) the number of houses constructed so far; and

(d) the Centre's aid given to each State for the purpose?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK). (a) Eight Defence Services Housing Cooperatives are functioning in the country.

(b) Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan and Union Territory of Chandigarh.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) These colonies are set up under the arrangements of local Commanders/State Governments. No grant from the Defence Services Estimates has been made to the State Governments for the purpose.

#### Journeys on tour in Dandakaranya Project Area

6942. SHRI HUKAM CHAND KACHWAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any order has been issued by Government to treat the journeys on tour in Dandakaranya Project area as local journeys and the Employees Association has demanded to lift this restriction;

(b) if so, the action taken on this demand of the Employees Association; and

(c) whether the restriction is being lifted; if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY): (a) General orders were issued by the Government in April, 1972, according to which the journeys between two places falling within the qualifying limits of Project allowance, if admissible, should be treated as local journeys. The employees of the Dandakaranya Project automatically come under the purview of these orders. The Employees Association has represented to lift this restriction.

(b) and (c). The matter, whether the Dandakaranya Project employees should be exempted from the provisions of these orders, is under active consideration.

#### Diet to Patients of Umerkote Hospital of Dandakaranya Project

6943 SHRI HUKAM CHAND KACHWAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there were complaints by the patients of Umerkote Hospital of Dandakaranya Project that diet was not being supplied properly and as per prescribed standard and the concerned medical officer did not take any action; and

(b) if so, the action taken against the persons responsible?