

[English]

Disparity in Minimum wages in States

1892. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGAVAN:
SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA :
SHRI PRATAPSIH BAH-
GHEL :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether wide disparity exists in minimum wages in different States ;

(b) if so, the details of minimum wages in different States ;

(c) whether it is the policy of Government to bring as far as practicable parity in the minimum wages in different States ; and

(d) if so, the steps taken proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) The details regarding the minimum wages fixed by the State Governments Union Territories Administrations in various scheduled employments is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha soon as possible.

(c) Yes, Sir

(d) The general question of uniformity in wages was discussed at the 31st Session of the Labour Ministers' Conference held in July, 1980. It was agreed at the Conference that while absolute uniformity is not possible, there should not be too wide a disparity in wages prescribed by neighbouring States as it might lead to flight of industry from one State to the other. Accordingly, the Conference emphasised that while fixing/revising minimum wages under the Minimum Wages Act, due regard may be given to the impact that the prescribed wages might have on the industry in other States especially the neighbouring ones.

Recently, the 35th Session of the Labour Ministers' Conference held in May 1985 also recommended that where there is a wide disparity in a particular scheduled employment covering two or more States, efforts should be made by all concerned to reduce disparity. The general question of having a National Minimum Wage, which *inter-alia* covers issues concerning disparity in wages, is at present under the consideration of the Group of Ministers constituted by the 35th Session of the Labour Ministers' Conference (May, 1985).

Improvement in Soil Fertility of Ravine Land in Rajasthan

1893. SHRI JUJHAR SINGH :
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to improve the soil fertility of ravine land in Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) Government of India are considering formulation of a centrally sponsored scheme for reclamation of ravine lands during the Seventh Five Year Plan. When finally approved and taken up for implementation, it would *inter-alia* improve the soil fertility of ravine lands and benefit the problem states including Rajasthan. The Central Soil & Water Conservation Research & Training Centre at Kota established under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in 1955, over the last 30 years has developed an integrated package of practices for reclamation of the ravines of the region; these include evaluation of erosion parameters, mechanical measures for the table-lands, shallow, medium and deep gullies and agronomic measures including fertility improvement for, agricultural lands, forestry, grassland and horticultural

practices for ravines which cannot be put under agriculture. Further, these practices have been successfully demonstrated in farmers' fields in Kota District through Lab-to-Land programmes. Apart from this, operational research on watershed has also been taken up in an area of about 450 ha. recently by the above Kota centre in collaboration with Rajasthan State Government.

In addition to the efforts of the Government of India, the State Government of Rajasthan has also proposed to undertake programme in the ravine lands during the Seventh Plan under the State sector.

Land Bank for Providing Houses to the Shelterless Through HUDCO

1894. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal to promote a land bank for providing houses to the shelterless through the Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether the scheme is also proposed to be extended to the slum dwellers of Bombay; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Question does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Functioning of T.V. Tower at Nainital

1895. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the TV tower of Nainital is not functioning properly;

(b) if so, whether Govt. propose to take any steps to bring about improvements in its functioning; and

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to start functioning smoothly ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). While the transmitter is functioning satisfactorily, the coverage is limited by obstruction due to surrounding high hills and has been interrupted due to power supply failures. The present site was provided by the State Govt. To combat power failures, a stand-by generator has been provided to the centre recently.

[*English*]

Misuse of ESI Amount by Medical Practitioners and Chemists

1896. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI :

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that hundreds of medical practitioners and chemists routinely misuse the Employees State Insurance Scheme;

(b) whether the anti-corruption bureau has alleged that seven medical practitioners and twelve chemists have been defrauding the Employees State Insurance Corporation to the tune of about Rs. 5 lakhs each year; and

(c) if so, the measures adopted to check this fraud ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : (a) and (b). The Anti-