

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2890
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.08.2023**

**INCREASE IN WAGES OF LABOURERS INCLUDING AGRICULTURAL
LABOURERS**

**†2890. SHRI DULAL CHANDRA GOSWAMI:
SHRI BHAGIRATH CHOUDHARY:**

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any decision to increase the wages of labourers including farm labourers in view of rising prices in the country especially in Bihar and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether there is any mechanism to ensure the payment of minimum wages fixed by the Government and if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) the details of the steps taken for improving the living standard and welfare of the farm labourers in the country during the last eight years;**
- (d) the details of the farm labourers benefitted from the above schemes in Ajmer and Jaipur constituencies of Rajasthan and the action plan of the Government for their upliftment;**
- (e) the details of the welfare schemes run by the Government particularly for rural and farm labourers;**
- (f) the amount allocated in all the districts of Rajasthan under the above schemes during the last four years; and**
- (g) the steps being taken by the Government to meet the requirements of farm labourers with regard to comprehensive education, living conditions and daily requirements etc?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI RAMESWAR TELI)**

(a): Under the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Central Government and the State Governments, as appropriate Government, fix, review and revise the minimum wages of the employees employed in the Scheduled employments including agriculture under their respective jurisdiction. Accordingly, the minimum rates of wages in the scheduled

Contd..2/-

employments in the Central sphere were revised by the Central Government in 2017. Further, in order to take care of the rising prices, the Central Government revises the Variable Dearness Allowance (V.D.A) on basic rates of minimum wages every six months effective from 1st April and 1st October of every year on the basis of Consumer Price Index for Industrial workers. V.D.A. was last revised w.e.f. 01.04.2023. A statement showing increase in the rates of wages on account of increasing V.D.A payable to the employees engaged in the Scheduled employments including agriculture in the Central Sphere is annexed.

(b): Enforcement of the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, including payment of the minimum wages, is done by the authorities statutorily appointed for the purpose by the appropriate Governments, i.e. the Central Government and the State Governments, in their respective jurisdiction. The enforcement in the Central sphere is secured through the inspecting officers of the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) commonly designated as Central Industrial Relations Machinery (CIRM) and in the State Sphere through the State Enforcement Machinery. The designated inspecting officers conduct regular inspections and in the event of detection of any case of non-payment or under-payment of minimum wages, they direct the employers to make payment of the shortfall of wages. In case of non-compliance, penal provisions prescribed under Section 22 of the Act are taken recourse to.

(c) to (g): The Government is implementing the Unorganised Workers social security Act (UWSS), 2008, to provide social security to unorganized workers including farm labourers by formulating suitable welfare schemes on the matters relating to: (i) life and disability cover; (ii) health and maternity benefits; (iii) old age protection; and (iv) any other benefit as may be determined by the Central Government.

Life and disability cover is provided through Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) based on contribution made by subscriber. PMJJBY is available to the people in the age group of 18 to 50 years and it provides for risk coverage Rs. 2.00 lakh in case of death, due to any reason, at an annual premium of Rs. 436/-. The Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) is available to the people in the age group of 18 to 70 years with risk coverage of Rs 2.00 lakh in case of accidental death or total permanent disability and Rs. 1.00 lakh for partial permanent disability on payment of annual premium of Rs. 20.

The Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (ABPMJAY) provides an annual health cover of Rs. 5 lakhs per eligible family for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization corresponding to 1949 treatment procedures across 27 specialties.

In order to provide old age social security cover, the Government of India launched Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan (PM-SYM) pension scheme in 2019. It provides monthly pension of Rs. 3000/- after attaining the age of 60 years. The unorganized workers in the age group of 18-40 years whose monthly income is Rs.15000/- or less and who are not a member of EPFO/ESIC/NPS (Govt. funded) can join the PM-SYM Scheme. Under this scheme 50% of the monthly contribution is payable by the beneficiary and equal matching contribution is paid by the Central Government.

The Government has launched e-Shram portal in August, 2021 to create National Database of Unorganised Workers and to facilitate delivery of social security schemes/welfare schemes to the unorganised workers. As on 02.08.2023 more than 28.99 crore unorganised workers have been registered on e-Shram portal out of which about 1.30 crore are registered from Rajasthan.

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Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question no. 2890 for answer on 07.08.2023 regarding Increase in Wages of Labourers including Agricultural Labourers by Shri Dulal Chandra Goswami & Shri Bhagirath Choudhary.

Statement showing increased rates of minimum wages on account of revision of VDA from 19.01.2017 to 01.04.2023

Scheduled Employment	Category of Workers	Rates of Wages including V.D.A per day (in Rs.)					
		Area A		Area B		Area C	
		19.01.2017	01.04.2023	19.01.2017	01.04.2023	19.01.2017	01.04.2023
Agriculture	Unskilled	333	470	303	429	300	424
	Semi-skilled/Unskilled	364	513	335	472	307	434
	Supervisory						
	Skilled/Clerical	395	558	364	513	334	471
	Highly-skilled	438	617	407	574	364	513
Sweeping and Cleaning+	Unskilled	523	736	437	616	350	494
Watch and Ward	Without Arms (Upgraded to skilled with training)	637	897	579	816	494	695
	With Arms (Upgraded to highly skilled for supervision)	693	973	637	897	579	816
Loading & Unloading#	Unskilled	523	736	437	616	350	494
Construction ^	Unskilled	523	736	437	616	350	494
	Semi-skilled/Unskilled	579	816	494	695	410	577
	Supervisory						
	Skilled/Clerical	637	897	579	816	494	695
	Highly-skilled	693	973	637	897	579	816
		19.01.2017			01.04.2023		
Workers engaged in Stone Mines for Stone Breaking and Stone Crushing	1.Excavation & removal of over burden with 50 meters lead/1.5 meters lift:*						
	(a) Soft Soil	351		498			
	(b) Soft Soil with Rock	531		748			
	(c) Rock	703		990			
	2. Removal and Staking of rejected stones with 50 metres lead/1.5metres lift*	283		400			
	3. Stone breaking or Stone Crushing for the stone size of category**						
(a) 1.0 inch to 1.5 inches	2171		3041				

	(b) Above 1.5 Inches to 3.0 Inches	1857		2601	
	(c) Above 3.0 Inches to 5 Inches	1088		1527	
	(d) Above 5.0 Inches	893		1255	
Non - Coal Mines\$		Above Ground {Rates of Wages including V.D.A per day (in Rs.)}		Below Ground {Rates of Wages including V.D.A per day (in Rs.)}	
		19.01.2017	01.04.2023	19.01.2017	01.04.2023
	Unskilled	350	494	437	616
	Semi-skilled/Unskilled Supervisory	437	616	523	736
	Skilled/Clerical	523	736	610	858
	Highly-skilled	610	858	683	959

*Per 2.831 cubic meters or 100 cubic feet

** Per truck load of 5.662 cubic meters or 200 cubic feet

+Employees engaged in the employment of Sweeping and Cleaning excluding Activities prohibited under the Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993.

#Employees engaged in the employment of Loading and Unloading in (i) Goods Sheds, Parcel Offices of Railways; (ii) Other Goods Sheds, Godowns, Warehouses and other similar employments; (iii) Docks and Ports; and (iv) Passengers Goods and Cargo Carried out at Airports (Both International and Domestic).

^Employees engaged in the employment of construction or maintenance of Roads or Runways or in Building Operations including laying down Underground Electric, Wireless, Radio, Television, Telephone, Telegraph and Overseas Communication Cables and similar other Underground Cabling Work, Electric Lines, Water Supply Lines and Sewerage Pipe Lines.

\$Employees engaged in the employment of Gypsum Mines, Barytes Mines, Bauxite Mines, Manganese Mines, China Clay Mines, Kyanite Mines, Copper Mines, Clay Mines, Magnesite Mines, White Clay Mines, Stone Mines, Steatite Mines (including the mines producing Soap Stones and Talc), Ochre Mines, Asbestos Mines, Fire Clay Mines, Chromite Mines, Quartzite Mines, Quartz Mines, Silica Mines, Graphite Mines, Felspar Mines, Laterite Mines, Dolomite Mines, Red Oxide Mines, Wolfram Mines, Iron Ore Mines, Granite Mines, Rock Phosphate Mines, Hematite Mines, Marble and Calcite Mines, Uranium Mines, Mica Mines, Lignite Mines, Gravel Mines, Slate and Magnetite Mines.

Classification of Area

AREA – “A”					
Ahmedabad	(UA)	Hyderabad	(UA)	Faridabad complex	
Bangaluru	(UA)	Kanpur	(UA)	Ghaziabad	
Kolkata	(UA)	Lucknow	(UA)	Gurgaon	
Delhi	(UA)	Chennai	(UA)	Noida	
Greater Mumbai	(UA)	Nagpur	(UA)	Secunderabad	
Navi Mumbai		Pune	(UA)		
AREA – “B”					
Agra	(UA)	Gwalior	(UA)	Port Blair	(UA)
Ajmer	(UA)	Hubli-Dharwad	(M. Corpn)	Puducherry	(UA)
Aligarh	(UA)	Indore	(UA)	Raipur	(UA)
Allahabad	(UA)	Jabalpur	(UA)	Raurkela	(UA)
Amravati	(M.Corpn)	Jaipur	(M.Corpn)	Rajkot	(UA)
Amritsar	(UA)	Jalandhar	(UA)	Ranchi	(UA)
Asansol	(UA)	Jalandhar-Cantt.	(UA)	Saharanpur	(M.Corpn)
Aurangabad	(UA)	Jammu	(UA)	Salem	(UA)
Bareilly	(UA)	Jamnagar	(UA)	Sangli	(UA)
Belgaum	(UA)	Jamshedpur	(UA)	Shillong	
Bhavnagar	(UA)	Jhansi	(UA)	Siliguri	(UA)
Bhiwandi	(UA)	Jodhpur	(UA)	Solapur	(M.Corpn)
Bhopal	(UA)	Kannur	(UA)	Srinagar	(UA)
Bhubaneshwar	(UA)	Kochi	(UA)	Surat	(UA)
Bikaner	(M.Corpn)	Kolhapur	(UA)	Thiruvananthapuram	(UA)
Bokaro Steel City	(UA)	Kollam	(UA)	Thrissur	(UA)
Chandigarh	(UA)	Kota	(M.Corpn)	Tiruchirappalli	(UA)
Coimbatore	(UA)	Kozhikode	(UA)	Tiruppur	(UA)
Cuttack	(UA)	Ludhiana	(M.Corpn)	Ujjain	(M.Corpn)
Dehradun	(UA)	Madurai	(UA)	Vadodara	(UA)
Dhanbad	(UA)	Malappuram	(UA)	Varanasi	(UA)
Durgapur	(UA)	Malegaon	(UA)	Vasai- Virar City	(M.Corpn)
Durg-Bhilai Nagar	(UA)	Mangalore	(UA)	Vijayawada	(UA)
Erode	(UA)	Meerut	(UA)	Vishakhapatnam	(M.Corpn)
Firozabad		Moradabad	(M. Corpn)	Warangal	(UA)
Goa		Mysore	(UA)	Gorakhpur	(UA)
NandedWaghala	(M. Corpn)	GreaterVisakhapatnam	(M.Corpn)	Nasik	(UA)
Gulbarga	(UA)	Nellore	(UA)	Guntur	(UA)
Panchkula	(UA)	Guwahati	(UA)	Patna	(UA)
Area ‘C’ will comprise all areas not mentioned in this list.					
NB: U.A. stands for Urban Agglomeration.					
