

**Branch-Cum-Investment Office of LIC in Vijayawada**

4214. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the latest stage of the proposal for construction of Branch Office-cum-Investment Building of Life Insurance Corporation at Besant Road, Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) the estimated cost and the number of floors of the proposed building?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Architectural drawings for Municipal approval are under preparation.

(b) The proposed building is estimated to cost Rs. 1 crore approximately and will have ground floor plus five upper floors.

**Application of Minimum Wages Act in Tea Industry**

4215. SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the payment under Minimum Wages Act is in vogue in the Tea Industry in Assam particularly in respect of women workers; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). From the rate of P.R. daily wages paid to the tea plantation labourers it is clear that women tea plantation labourers are not treated differently from

the man plantation labourers. The rate for child labour is lower than the rate meant for adults irrespective of man or women.

Besides the daily wages are fixed under Bipartite/Tripartite agreement, the incentive for plucking green leaves and other statutory or non-statutory fringe benefit like Foodgrains subsidy, Housing, Children education, Medical Attendance/Sickness Benefit, Earned Leave, Provident Fund, Maternity Benefit etc. are also available for tea plantation labourers in ASSAM.

[Translation]

**Survey on Ground Water level in Madhya Pradesh**

4216. SHRI K. N. PRADHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether ground water level in Madhya Pradesh is constantly going down due to less rain and the excessive exploitation of ground water;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted to assess the extent of ground water in the State;

(c) if so, the results thereof; and

(d) whether any financial assistance has been provided or proposed to be provided for conducting census of minor irrigation works under the centrally sponsored scheme to the Government of Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Decline in ground water levels has been observed in some localised parts of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) and (c). The annually replenishable