

STATEMENT

(Amount in Rs.)

Name of the State	1977	1978	1979
Andhra Pradesh . . . . .	..	5,08,552	38,637
Bihar . . . . .	..	2,30,440	13,565
Delhi . . . . .	..	..	70,500
Gujarat	100	755	600
Haryana . . . . .	..	150	200
Karnataka	400	82,714	..
Kerala . . . . .	..	10,175	..
Maharashtra . . . . .	..	28,34,070	53,660
Madhya Pradesh . . . . .	..	101	47,205
Pondichery . . . . .	..	..	14,165
Punjab . . . . .	..	..	21,000
Rajasthan	300	10	13,46,477
Tamil Nadu	42,15,260	1,10,592	..
Uttar Pradesh	3,000	2,64,865	4,68,727
West Bengal . . . . .	..	2,900	..
TOTAL	42,19,060	40,45,324	(*)20,74,736

(*) Figures for 1979 are provisional.

Unorganised Agricultural Labour

386. SHRI CHANDRABHAN
ATHARE PATIL: Will the Minister
of LABOUR

be pleased to state:

(a) what action is being taken to improve the conditions of the unorganised agricultural labour and also to establish an organisation thereof;

(b) whether Government are also aware that there is heavy unemployment in the rural areas and that the agricultural labour is not paid the wages at the rates fixed by Government and what action has been taken

to ensure that labour is not removed on flimsy grounds and they are paid wages at rates fixed by Government; and

(c) what action has been taken or proposed to be taken by Government to ensure employment of the agricultural labour in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM & CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) to (c). The problems of agricultural labour have been under Government's consideration for quite some time and various reports and enquiries have

highlighted its problems like unemployment, under-employment, low-wages, lack of amenities, inadequate housing, lack of organisations, all of which result in a low standard of living. In September 1978, the Government constituted a Central Standing Committee on Rural Unorganised Labour to advise Government on the various administrative and legislative measures for improving the socio-economic conditions of the rural unorganised labour and for promoting their organisations. One of the important terms of reference of the Standing Committee was to advise on ways and means of removing unemployment and under employment in rural areas through employment generating schemes.

The Standing Committee constituted three Sub-Committees

- (i) to prepare the framework of a Central Bill to regulate the wages and conditions of employment of agricultural workers and to provide a machinery for the settlement of disputes and claims;
- (ii) to review the procedure and practices in identifying and freeing bonded labourers and recommend what improvements could be brought about to make them more effective;
- (iii) report on the administrative and legal measures necessary to strengthen the organisation of rural workers and give proper attention to rural workers, training and education.

The Sub-Committees mentioned at (i) and (ii) have finalised their reports and the report of the Sub-Committee at item (iii) is expected to be finalised shortly. Reports of all the Sub-Committees will be placed before the Central Standing Committee on Rural Unorganised Labour at its meeting to be convened shortly. The Standing Committee will then recommend further action to the Government.

The Draft Five Year Plan 1978-83 envisages massive shift of resources in favour of rural areas. Government have launched several special schemes such as the Small Farmers' Development Programmes, the Integrated Rural Development Programme, the Drought Prone Areas Programmes and the Desert Development Programme for increasing the employment level of agricultural labour. The objective of these schemes is the development and optimum utilisation of all available resources in the programme areas and thereby assisting the weaker sections to take to productive activities—like dairing, poultry, sheep rearing and wool production, piggery etc. The beneficiaries are assisted with loans and subsidies as well as with technical advice. Government have also given high priority to irrigation development both with a view to increasing total food production and the labour absorption capacity of agriculture. Further implementation of existing labour laws, education of rural workers through Rural Labour Camps, rehabilitation programmes for bonded labour, etc. are some of the other measures being taken to improve the conditions of unorganised agricultural labour.

Seminar on "Law as an Instrument of Population Control in India"

387. SHRIMATI MOHSINA
KIDWAI:

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether, at a Seminar recently held in New Delhi on "the Law as an Instrument of Population Control in India", a number of suggestions were made to achieve the objective;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?