

Delhi Administration have already decided to widen this road to four lanes with divided carriageway and work is expected to start shortly. After widening of the road and provision of Zebra crossing at suitable locations, the road is likely to be quite safe for pedestrians.

#### Wages to farm Labour in rural Areas

4597. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the various steps taken by Government to ensure wages on permanent basis to the farm labour in rural areas with a view to keeping them fruitfully employed;

(b) whether Government have under consideration any proposal to treat the farm labour at par with the industrial labour; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH): (a) The minimum wages for agricultural workers are fixed and revised from time to time by the appropriate Governments under the Minimum Wages Act. At a meeting of the Labour Secretaries held in April, 1980, it was agreed that the following steps should be taken for more effective implementation of the Act:—

(i) Implementation of the minimum wages in agriculture should be pursued vigorously as an item of the 20-point programme.

(ii) There should be a separate machinery for implementation of labour laws in general and implementation of minimum wages in agriculture in particular at district and taluq levels. Such machinery should take the assistance of the revenue, panchayat and other department depending on the conditions in individual States.

(iii) Tripartite committees should be formed at different levels within the State to oversee the imple-

mentation of minimum wages in agriculture.

(iv) The workers education programmes should be intensified in rural areas to bring about an awareness among the agricultural workers about their rights in regard to minimum wages payable by the employer under the Minimum Wages Act.

(v) Steps should be taken to promote the organisation of labour in rural areas which would facilitate the implementation of minimum wages in agriculture.

(b) & (c): The minimum wages for farm labour are fixed practically on similar lines as in the case of industrial workers. The Central Standing Committee on rural unorganised labour have made certain recommendations regarding organising the agricultural workers. Their better organisation may be able to secure them higher wages as in the organised Industrial Sector.

#### Departmental canteen at Government Medical Store Depot, Madras

4598. SHRI THAZHAJ M. KARUNANITHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that employees are working for more than 8 years with a meagre salary in the departmental canteen functioning at Government Medical Store Depot, Madras;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Ministry of Home Affairs (Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms) Notification No. 6(2)23/77/Welfare dated 11th December, 1979 has not been given effect to in the Government Medical Store Depot, Madras; and

(d) if so, when this will be implemented and the arrears paid to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) and (b). Yes. One Cook and Two Vendors have been working in the Canteen for quite long and are being paid consolidated monthly salary of Rs. 100/- to the cook and Rs. 55/- to each of the vendors in addition to a sum of Rs. 2/- per day to each of the three employees on account of lunch etc.

(c) and (d). Proposal to apply the Notification to the above staff is under examination. This Canteen is not yet working on a regular basis. The same is being re-organised and the question of applying the provisions of the said notification to the Canteen employees will arise only after the canteen starts functioning properly.

#### **Dispute between S.E. Railway and Rayagada Municipality**

4599. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the dispute between S.E. Railway authority and Rayagada Municipality regarding the payment of holdings taxes is lying since 1966-67;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Railway authority and the Rayagada Municipality to settle the dispute;

(c) whether the Municipality sent the demand list to concerned Railway authority recently and requested to pay the taxes to the Municipality;

(d) if so, what is the approximate money demanded and paid by the Railway authority; and

(e) if the taxes are yet to be paid, when the Railway authority is likely to settle the dispute?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) (a) to (e). Prior to Re-organisation of States, Rayagada Municipality was part of the old

Madras Presidency and Municipal taxes on Central Government properties leviable under the Madras Local Board Act, 1920 were being paid by the Railway at the rate prescribed upto the year 1956-57. (However, consequent upon re-organisation of States, Rayagada Municipality became a part of Orissa State and it started claiming local taxes from 1957-58 onwards under the Orissa Municipal Act, 1950. Subsequently, a tripartite agreement arrived at between the State Government of Orissa, Rayagada Municipality and South Eastern Railway stipulated a payment of Rs. 5,000 per annum and accordingly these payments were made upto 1965-66.

However, the Municipality recently Claimed an amount of Rs. 2,04,020.10P. for the period 1966-67 to 1980-81. Payments aggregating to Rs. 23,566.44 have so far been made to the Municipality covering period from 1st April, 1966 to 1977-78.

The entire matter relating to payment of Municipal taxes in respect of such territories to which category Rayagada Municipality also belongs, is under consideration, in consultation with the Ministry of Finance, who are the final authority in the matter. The claim of the Rayagada Municipality will be settled as soon as a decision by the Government is taken.

#### **Bad climate allowance**

4600. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the areas identified and approved for bad climate allowance by his Ministry in Koraput District (South Eastern Railway Waltair Division);

(b) whether the railway employees of these identified areas have got bad climate allowance since the approval;

(c) if so, the areas eligible and rate of allowance paid, so far;