

matter, so that confirmation of the eligible officers can be done expeditiously.

Minimum wage of the port and dock workers

98. SHRI M. M. LAWRENCE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of workers and minimum wage of the Port and Dock workers in the country; and

(b) the demands of the employees unions in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) The total number of Class III and Class IV employees/workers under the Major Port Trusts and Dock Labour Boards as on 31-12-1981 is about 1.4 lakhs. The minimum wage of the lowest paid Port and Dock Worker at the Major Port Trusts and Dock Labour Boards in the country as on 1-7-1982 is Rs. 710 (approximately) per month.

(b) The 4 major federations of port and dock workers who were represented on the employees' side of the Bipartite Wage Negotiating Machinery had demanded, in their Charter of Demands, submitted in 1980, a minimum basic pay of Rs 725 per month at the All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (1960 series), 363.

Detention of Indian Boats and Fishermen by Sri Lanka

99. SHRI M. M. LAWRENCE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the steps that have been taken for the release of Indian fishermen and their boats (MS 245 and TNT 195) who had strayed into Sri Lanka waters and were held by the Government of that country?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): Local authorities of India and Sri Lanka are in constant touch with

each other on the problem of their respective fishermen straying into each others' territorial waters. In this specific instance the fishing vessels and the fishermen, including the drivers of the vessels, have been released by the Sri Lankan authorities through the efforts of our High Commission in Colombo.

Programmes for raising Educational level of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes

100. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:
SHRI JAI NARAYAN ROAT:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been made with regard to the present level of education of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes with a view to framing long term/short term programmes for raising their education level in various States to bring it at par with other communities; and

(b) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL): (a) and (b). Yes Sir. Periodical surveys are conducted to assess the progress of education of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The 4th Education Survey was conducted in 1978. This analysed inter-alia the number of habitations, predominantly inhabited by Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, covered with schooling facilities, the proportionate increase of enrolment of children belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, the proportion of teachers belonging to these communities etc. Further, a study is conducted annually to analyse the quantitative expansion of education of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes at various levels of education. The findings of these surveys and studies are made available to the State Governments who are responsible for the formulation and implementation of long term/short term programmes for raising the educational levels of these communities at par with other communities.