

National Wage Policy

215. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a National Wage Policy for the welfare and benefit of the labourers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) There is no proposal before the Government to formulate the National Wage Policy.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Wages in the organised sector are determined through negotiations and settlements. Wherever necessary, the Government also constitutes Wage Boards, in certain sectors, for fixation and revision of wages. In the unorganised sector, wages are fixed under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. Under the Minimum Wages Act, both the State and the Central Governments are appropriate Governments for fixation/revision of minimum rates of wages in the scheduled employments falling in their respective jurisdiction. Act provides for the periodic revision of minimum rates of wages.

Censorship of Films

216. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to issue fresh guidelines for censorship of films; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). The existing guidelines for certification of films are quite comprehensive and there is no proposal to issue fresh guidelines. However, these guidelines are reviewed by Government as and when considered necessary.

Labour Co-operative Societies

217. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of details of labour co-operative societies set-up in the country to take-over the closed industrial undertakings;

(b) whether the Government encourage setting up of each Societies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). As per the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985, it is mandatory for the management of a sick industrial company to make reference to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). Revival of sick industrial companies through workers' cooperative is one of the measures envisaged under the Act.

According to the available information, BIFR has so far sanctioned five schemes for revival of sick industrial companies through worker's cooperatives. These are :

1. New Central Jute Mills
2. Kamani Tubes*
3. Power Metals
4. HES Ltd.
5. K.M.A. Ltd.

The Companies mentioned at Sl. No. 1,3,4 and 5 for which revival schemes were sanctioned are under implementation.

The case mentioned at Sl. No. 2 for which revival scheme earlier sanctioned has been declared failed since 26.5.95, and is presently under enquiry. Ministry of Labour as a matter of general policy does encourage, inter alia, rehabilitation schemes through employees' cooperatives.

[English]

Telecasting of news in all Languages

218. SHRI R.B. RAI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the languages included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution;

(b) whether the Government have not yet started to telecast news on Doordarshan in all these languages;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to telecast news in all the languages included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, and Urdu.

(b) to (d). Doordarshan telecasts news in all these languages except Sindhi, Manipuri, Konkani and Nepali. There is no proposal at present to telecast news in these four languages due to lack of manpower, hardware, other infrastructural facilities, etc.