THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) (a) to (c) Under the Minimum Wages Act 1948 both the State and Central Government are appropriate Governments for fixation/revision of minimum rates of wages for the scheduled employments under their respective jurisdiction. However, bulk of the scheduled employment falls under State jurisdiction and the Central Government is responsible only in respect of 40 scheduled employment. The Act provide for periodic revision of minimum rates of wages at an interval not exceeding five years. However, various foras/bodies in the past like Labour Ministers' Conference, Indian Labour Conference etc. have recommended to reduce this period. These recommendations have been communicated to the State Government/UT Administration for necessary action. In the Central sphere, the minimum rates of wages for Employment in Agriculture were last revised on 12-8-92 and for 39 other scheduled employment relating mainly to mining, construction and railway sectors, were last revised on 12-7-94. There is also a provision of variable dearness allowance as part of minimum wages, which is revised every six months as per the variation in consumer price index number. The last revision of variable dearness allowance was made w.e.f. 1-10-96.

The Act also provide for the setting up of an enforcement machinery to seek compliance with the provision of the Act. In the Central sphere, the enforcement of the Minimum Wages Act is secured through the officers of the Central Industrial Relation Machinery. These officers make regular and periodic inspections of the establishment under the Act and take necessary action whenever any violation to the Act comes to the notice. Similarly the States also have an elaborate and grassroot level enforcement infrastructure. The Central Government from time to time advise the State Government/UT administration to take various steps to make the enforcement of the provisions of the Act more effective.

New Scheme for Global Passengers

*25.   SHRI AJMEERA CHANDULAL :
SHRI K.P. NAIDU :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the new scheme propose to be formulated by Air India to attract more global passengers; and

(b) the steps taken to increase the number of aircraft fleet to offer additional capacity and introduce more flight schedule?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Schemes are launched by Air India from time to time to attract passengers. Some such schemes in existence at present are :

1. Companion free offer for first and executive class passengers on selected routes.

2. Frequent Flyer Programme.

3. Lucky Draw Scheme applicable to all passengers who purchase Air India tickets in India for international journey.

4. Special fare offers on selected routes.

(b) Air India has acquired two Boeing 747-400 aircraft during October-November. 1996 as a part of its fleet renewal plan and to augment capacity. Air India plans to continue renewal of its fleet during the Ninth Plan period.

Plan to Handle Air Traffic

*26.   SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Airport Authority of India has worked out a long term plan to handle increasing air traffic;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said plan is likely to be implemented together with the names of airports where it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes. Sir, the Airports Authority of India has worked out plans to handle the increasing Air Traffic across the Indian Air Space and corresponding upgradation in the ground infrastructure facilities like terminal buildings, runways, aprons etc.

(b) and (c). The details of the schemes under implementation/planned for implementation and the time frame by which these are likely to be implemented are given in the enclosed Statements I and II.