

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1989
ANSWERED ON:20.07.2009
MINIMUM WAGES TO AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS
Reddy Shri Magunta Srinivasulu

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of wages fixed for the agricultural labourers under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to revise the old Act in view of the rising cost of living; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

- (a): A statement giving the latest rates of minimum wages to agricultural labourers(Unskilled) State-wise, is Annexed.
- (b) & (c): Under the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, both the Central and State Governments are the appropriate Governments to fix and revise the minimum wages in the scheduled employments under their respective jurisdictions. As per Section 3 (1) (b) of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the appropriate Government shall review at such intervals, not exceeding five years, the minimum rates of wages so fixed and revise the minimum rates, if necessary. Accordingly, the appropriate Governments review/revise minimum wages from time to time, taking into account, inter alia, the rise in price levels. Further, in order to protect the minimum wages against inflation, the Central Government and most of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have adopted the system of Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA) linked to Consumer Price Index Numbers of Industrial Workers. The VDA is revised twice a year in the Central sphere effective from 1st April and 1st October.