

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:554

ANSWERED ON:13.08.2012

WAGES TO AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS

Scindia Smt. Yashodhara Raje;Swamygowda Shri N Cheluvaraya Swamy

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

- (a) the minimum wages being paid to agricultural labourer in the country at present;
- (b) whether the agricultural production is affected due to the system of payment of lesser wages; and
- (c) if so, the corrective measures taken by the Government regarding minimum wages hike for the unorganised sectors such as agricultural labourers, beedi workers and mine workers etc.?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE)

(a) & (b): Under the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, both Central and State Governments are appropriate Governments to fix, review and revise the minimum rates of wages for different categories of workers employed in the scheduled employment of 'Agriculture' in the country. A statement showing the minimum rates of wages under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 for different categories of workers engaged in 'Agriculture' for different States/Union Territories is annexed.

There is no direct correlation between agricultural production and the wages paid.

(c): Since 1996, Government has put in place the concept of National Floor Level Minimum Wages (NFLMW) on non-statutory basis and the State/UT Governments are requested to fix/ revise minimum wages in such a way that it does not fall below NFLMW. Besides, 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) by which the Minimum Wage is revised/hiked based on increase in the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers. VDA is generally revised twice a year. VDA is applicable for various scheduled employments including agriculture, beedi and mine workers.