

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1477
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2012
DAILY WAGE OF AGRICULTURE LABOURERS
Singh Shri Uday Pratap

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any decision to hike daily wages for labourers including those from the agricultural sector in view of the increasing prices;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the mechanism evolved to ensure the payment of minimum wages fixed by the Government; and
- (d) the difference between the wages of skilled and unskilled labour in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH)

(a) & (b): 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 basic Minimum Wage is revised/hiked based on increase in the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers. VDA is generally revised twice a year and applicable for various scheduled employments including agricultural sector.

(c): Under the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 enforcement is secured by the Central as well as the State Governments. In the Central Sphere, the implementation is secured through the Central Industrial Relations Machinery, while in the State Sphere, the responsibility of the enforcement lies with the respective State Enforcement Machinery.

(d): Under the Act, both Central and State Governments are appropriate Governments to fix, review and revise the minimum rates of wages for different categories (Skilled/Semi-skilled/Unskilled etc.) of workers in the country. A statement showing the minimum rates of wages under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 for different categories of workers in the Central Sphere is annexed.