

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1675

ANSWERED ON:30.11.2009

INCREASE IN MINIMUM WAGES

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to revise the minimum daily wages to provide financial help to the labourers in view of the steep rise in the prices of essential commodities in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which minimum daily wages are likely to be revised and implemented?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b): 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.

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), revised twice a year effective from 1st April and 1st October on the basis of increase in Consumer Price Index Numbers for Industrial Workers.