

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2756
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2009
MINIMUM WAGES TO AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS
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Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the minimum wages being paid to the agricultural labourers at present in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has conducted any survey regarding the deteriorating condition of agricultural labourers of the country;
- (c) if so, the details and facts thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government to increase the minimum wages for such labourers;
- (d) whether the Government has set up any monitoring mechanism to ensure that the agriculture labourers get the declared minimum wages; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

- (a): A statement giving the latest available rates of minimum wages to agricultural labourers (Unskilled), State-wise, is at Annexure-I.
- (b) to (e): A statement giving all India wage rates for men and women in 11 agricultural occupations in Rural India on the basis of the 61st Survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) during 2004-05, is at Annexure-II.

The appropriate Governments revise minimum wages from time to time. 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), revised twice a year effective from 1st April and 1st October on the basis of increase in Consumer Price Index Numbers for Industrial Workers.

The enforcement of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 is secured at two levels. While in the Central sphere, the enforcement is secured through the Inspecting Officers of the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central), the compliance in the State sphere is ensured through the State Enforcement Machinery. They conduct regular inspections and in the event of detection of any case of non-payment or under-payment of minimum wages, they advise the employers to make payment of the shortfall of wages. In case of non-compliance, penal provisions against the defaulting employers are invoked.

Details regarding enforcement of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 during 2007-08, as available in respect of all employments, is given as per statement at Annexure-III.