

Minimum Wages Act, 1948

1400. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of follow-up action in regard to implementation of the Minimum Wages Act 1948 (11 of 1948);

(b) whether the minimum wages fixed uniform in all the States/Union Territories;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the action has been taken against the employer during 1998 for not giving minimum wages;

(e) whether the Government are contemplating to increase minimum wages, and if so, the details thereof; and

(f) number of organisations where workers are participating in management?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) The provisions of Minimum Wages Act, 1948 are enforced in the Central Sphere by the Officers of Central Industrial Relation Machinery and in the States/ Union Territories by the Officers of State Governments/ Union Territory Governments. Violations and irregularities detected during inspections are dealt with as per the provisions of the Act. In the case of less payments the authorities appointed under the Act are empowered to hear and decide the cases and award the claim amount along with compensations. The Act has also a provision for prosecutions in the Court of Law in case of violations of the provisions of the Act.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Details of number of claim cases filed under Central sphere, amount awarded to workmen etc. for the year 1998 are given below:—

1. No of claim Cases pending as on 31.12.1997—3087.
2. No. of Claim Cases filed during the year 1998—3784.
3. No. Claim Cases disposed off—1465.

4. Amount of Claim awarded—Rs. 2523575.05

5. Amount of Compensation awarded—Rs. 10570697.13

(e) Section 3 (b) of the M.W. Act, 1948 provides that the minimum rates of wages shall be revised in intervals not exceeding five years. The appropriate authority is required to revise minimum wages of the scheduled employments accordingly. Under the Central Sphere, revision of 40 scheduled employments, including agriculture is under consideration.

(f) There are 100 enterprises which have either implemented the Scheme for employees participation in Management issued on 30.12.83, or earlier schemes of the Ministry of Labour either at shop floor level or at plant level.

Adoption of National Media Policy

1401. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is persistent demand to adopt National Media Policy for electronic media to counter the effect of foreign electronic media;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) to (c) In order to formulate a National Media Policy, a Sub-Committee of the Consultative Committee of MPs was constituted in March, 1994 to prepare a positional/working paper thereon. The Committee submitted its report on 29.3.1996. The report/working paper was placed before the Consultative Committee on 11.9.1996 to consider and take a view on the recommendations/suggestions of the Sub-Committee before the Government can take any decision on it. Before the Committee could make its recommendations, the 11th Lok Sabha was dissolved. With the constitution of the 12th Lok Sabha, the Consultative Committee of this Ministry was reconstituted on 9.7.1998. The working paper on National Media Policy is yet to be considered by this Committee.