

convening their meetings regularly.

National Minimum Wage

1553. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to fix National minimum wage during 1990;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

[*Translation*]

Irrigation Facilities for Akhal Division In Bihar

1554. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that better irrigation facilities can be provided by river Sona in Akhal division of Jahanabad District in Bihar;

(b) if so, whether a study team of Central Water Commission is proposed to visit that place for conducting a survey on this matter; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) and (b). No such proposal has been received in Government

of India from the State Government.

(c) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Setting up of Rubber Prophylactile Project in Orissa

1555. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a rubber prophylactile project in Orissa; and

(c) if so, the proposed cost of the project its location and likely date of its setting up?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) Government of India has no proposal at present to set up a rubber prophylactile plant in Orissa.

(b) Does not arise.

Irrigation Potentials and its Utilisation

1556. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the gap between irrigation potentials and its utilisation is continuously increasing;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any scheme is being formulated by Government on priority basis to fill up this gap; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) and (b). There is

a lag in utilisation of irrigation potential created, which is mainly due to delays inter-alia in the development of on-farm works, construction of field channels, land levelling and field drains and adjustment of farmers to irrigated agriculture.

(c) and (d). Steps taken include on-farm development works under the Command Area Development Programme, improved water management practices, modernisation and stabilization of existing projects and Water budgeting practices, training of farmers and their participation in Water management.

[Translation]

Iodised Salt

1557. SHRI NATHU SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the iodised salt of different brands in the market conform to the PFA specifications;

(b) if not, which of the brands have been found lacking in requisite quantity of iodine;

(c) whether any samples taken and tested during last three years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NILAMANI ROURAY): (a) to (d). Several brands of iodised salt are available in the market. During the years 1986, 1987 and 1988, 2505 samples of different brands of iodised salt were collected in different States/Union Territories under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules. Out of these 377 samples did not conform to the prescribed standards.

In order to check the quality of iodised salt, the Salt Commissioner is conducting quality control checks through 25 quality test laboratories and provide guidance and training in operation and quality control to the iodised salt manufacturers. Reprocessing of iodised salt not conforming to specifications, rejection of claims of subsidy, issue of show cause notices for suspension of permission to manufacture iodised salt, are some by the measures, adopted by the Salt Commissioner to improve the quality of iodised salt.

Apart from this, iodised salt has been included as an item of food under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 which is being enforced by the State Union Territories Governments.

Variation in Salaries to Employees of Betwa River Board

1558. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether employees working in the Betwa River Board (Rajghat Dam Project), Rajghat district Lalitpur (Uttar Pradesh) managed by Ministry of Water Resources are being paid three different types of salaries and other facilities; and

(b) if so, the reasons for which some of the employees are being paid salaries according to Central Government scales, some are being paid Madhya Pradesh Government scales and yet some others are being paid Uttar Pradesh Government scales?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) and (b). The officers and staff for the Betwa River Board are drawn from the participating States, namely, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh in equal proportion on deputation basis. Pay of these employees is regulated in terms of