

are of various kinds including claims on the Banco Nacional Ultramarino, Lisbon, in regard to repayment of loans or investments in securities.

(b) Article III of the Indo-Portuguese treaty of December 31st, 1974 provides for settlement of questions concerning the property, assets and claims of citizens of the respective countries as well as those concerning State property and assets of either State in the territories of the other State through bilateral negotiations. The possibilities of settlement of claims are being examined.

Minimum Wage for Handloom Workers

*371. SHRI K. A. RAJAN
SHRI RAMACHANDRAN
KADANNAPPALLI:

Will the Minister of PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be
pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the absence of a national minimum wage for handloom workers is adversely affecting the handloom industry in Kerala where minimum wages have been fixed; and

(b) whether Government propose to take steps for such fixation for avoiding unfair competition between the industry in different regions?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI
RAVINDRA VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir.
The Government of Kerala have drawn
attention to this matter.

(b) Minimum Wages for handloom workers are fixed by the State Governments in their capacity as 'Appropriate Government' under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. A uniform minimum wage throughout the country is not feasible due to several reasons, but consultations between neighbouring States may help in narrowing disparities.

ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में चलते फिरते डाकघर खोलना

*372. श्री हरगोविन्द वर्मा : क्या
संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में
चलते-फिरते डाकघर खोल रही है; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो ऐसे डाकघर कब
तक खोल दिए जायेंगे और उत्तर प्रदेश में
कितने ऐसे डाकघर खोले जायेंगे ?

संचार मंत्री (श्री ब्रज लाल वर्मा) :

(क) और (ख) जी हाँ। ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में
साइकिलों पर चलते-फिरते डाकघर वर्ष
1975-76 से खोले जा रहे हैं। 31-3-77
तक ऐसे 464 डाकघर खोले जा चुके थे।
इनमें उत्तर प्रदेश में खोले गए 33 डाकघर
भी शामिल हैं।

वर्ष 1977-78 के दौरान उत्तर प्रदेश
में 250 चलते-फिरते डाकघर खोलने और
लगभग 4000 मीजूदा अचल डाकघरों को
चलते-फिरते डाकघरों में बदलने का प्रस्ताव
है। ये डाकघर करीब 13000 गांवों को डाक-
सेवाएं देंगे।

Implementation of Minimum Wages Act

*373. SHRI AHMED M. PATEL: Will
the Minister of PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased
to state:

(a) whether Government have im-
plemented the Minimum Wages Act
throughout the country particularly in
Gujarat State;

(b) whether Government have set
up a machinery for detecting the de-
faulters and punish them; and

(c) if so, the outlines thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI
RAVINDRA VERMA): (a) Imple-