

Act, 1948 is already applicable to all the employees in the Scheduled Employments as listed in Part I & Part II of the Schedule of the Act and those employments which are added by the appropriate Governments under Section 27 of the Act, from time to time. Further, there is provision for revision of minimum wages under section 3(1) (b) of the Act. Addition of employments and revision of minimum wages under the Act is thus already a continuing process.

WAGE BOARD FOR PORT AND DOCK WORKERS

***340. SHRI VISWANATHA MENON :**

SHRI P. RAMAMURTI .

SHRI K. RAMANI :

SHRI GADILINGANA

GOWD :

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the non-implementation of the recommendations of the Central Wage Board for Port and Dock Workers regarding the payment of interim relief and Dearness Allowance;

(b) if so, the extent of non-implementation; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for the implementation of the decision by the managements?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR & REHABILITATION (SHRI HATHI) :

(a) and (b). The recommendations of the Wage Board have been fully implemented by Port Trusts and Dock Labour Boards. There are however a few cases of non-implementation relating to contractors/stevedores.

(c) The officers of the Central Industrial Relation Machinery hold conciliation proceedings whenever disputes over non-implementation are brought

to notice. In eleven cases, the disputes have been referred to adjudication.

WAGE STRUCTURE OF AGRICULTURAL LABOUR

***341. SHRI K. HALDAR :** Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state : (a) whether it is a fact that very little has been done to improve the wage structure of the agricultural labour during the last three Plans;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps which are proposed to be taken to improve the wage structure of the agricultural labour during the Fourth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR & REHABILITATION (SHRI HATHI) : (a) No. Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, 'appropriate Government' concerned are required to fix minimum wages in scheduled employments, including Agriculture. During the last three Plans all the State Governments/ Union Territories, where the Act is applicable minimum rates of wages for employment in agriculture have already been fixed in the entire State/ Territory, with the exception of Maharashtra and Madras where it has been done in part of the State.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) During the Fourth Plan stress is proposed to be laid for implementation of Minimum Wages Act, 1948 more effectively. This was discussed at the Seventh Meeting of the Minimum Wages Central Advisory Board held in December 1967 and based on its recommendations, the State Governments have been requested—

(i) that minimum wages for agricultural workers should be fixed in every part of each State, to complete the process of covering all workers mentioned in Part II of the Schedule within the shortest possible time. To expedite it the Committee Procedure may be adopted.

(ii) that revision of minimum wages should be undertaken a little more frequently.

(iii) that enforcement machinery in the case of agriculture, should be strengthened and in addition, the assistance of Revenue and Panchayat Officials should be secured.

PROCUREMENT PRICE OF WHEAT AND RICE

*342. SHRI K. N. PANDEY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Governments have suggested higher procurement price for wheat and rice for the coming season; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) No such suggestion has been received for the coming season.

(b) Does not arise.

PRODUCTION OF FOODGRAINS

*343. SHRI M. L. SONDEHI: Will the Minister of FOOD & AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only 20 per cent of funds available for agriculture are spent for improving the yield of foodgrains; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to revise planning at different stages to secure more yield of foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) and (b). No precise data is available regarding the percentage of funds spent for improving the yield of foodgrains out of

the amounts meant for agricultural development. Foodgrains account of about three fourths of the gross cultivated area and two thirds of the total value of output of principal crops. It is, therefore, expected that the bulk of the funds allocated for agriculture is utilised for improving the yield of foodgrains. Moreover, under the new strategy for Agricultural Development, special emphasis is being laid on increasing the production of foodgrains as part of the high yielding varieties programme.

SUBSIDY ON PESTICIDES

*344. SHRI E. K. NAYANAR :
SHRI A. K. GOPALAN :
SHRI K. RAMANI :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to subsidise pesticides;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) its effect on their prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) There is no proposal under consideration for a general subsidy on pesticides.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

ELECTRONIC COMPUTERS

*345. SHRI DEIVEEKAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the introduction of Electronic Computers will lead to increased industrial unrest among workers and labourers;

(b) if so, whether this will lead to increased problem of unemployment; and

(c) the steps which are being taken to see that their installation does not effect unemployment problem?