

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure the interests of women labourers working in this industry?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) The main labour laws applicable to workers (including workers in the Fish Processing Industry) are the Employees' Provident Fund Act, 1952, Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, Payment of Wages Act, 1936, Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, Minimum Wages Act, 1948, Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 etc. For women workers provisions of Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 and Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 are also applicable.

According to 1991 Census, 51,211 workers (including marginal workers) are engaged in the processing, canning and preserving of fish, Crustacea and similar foods.

The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 provides for fixation of minimum wages for different categories of workers, and their periodical revision by the respective State Governments. The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 provides for equal remuneration for men and women workers. The Acts do not make any distinction on the basis of sex. The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 and the Rules framed thereunder provide for various welfare and health measures for such workers. Cases of violation of the provisions of the Acts and Rules are dealt with suitably by the appropriate Government.

Additionally, the Marine Products Export Development Authority also assist the seafood processors to upgrade their facilities to achieve equivalency with the European and US standards, by which the workers get better facilities in the processing plants. Extension Trainings are being given to pre-processing and processing workers for hygienic handling of fishery products.

Financial assistance to women in Punjab

3023. SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH
DHINDSA:
SARDAR BALWINDER
SINGH BHUNDER:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are providing financial assistance to women in various States; and

(b) if so, the total financial assistance provided to the State of Punjab during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Articles purchased by TRIFED

3024. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the articles purchased by TRIFED during 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 (State-wise, quantity/rate of purchase and rate of sale);

(b) the source of items purchased from (i) Mandi (ii) Open Markets (iii) Government Departments (iv) PSUs under Central Government (v) PSUs under State Government and (vi) Individual Tribals;

(c) whether Government have received any complaints of violation of norms for purchasing the articles from tribals; and

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Year-wise details of commodities purchased and sold for 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 are