

and rehabilitated as also the manner in which the working conditions of the children working in non-hazardous occupations are to be regulated and improved upon. For giving effect to the directions of Supreme Court, detailed guidelines have been sent to the State Governments. The process for conduct for survey has already begun.

Implementation of the Recommendations by the NCRL

989. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission on Rural Labour (NCRL) in its report of 1991 had recommended that the minimum rate of wages for the agricultural workers should not be fixed below Rs. 20 per day on the basis of prices prevailing during 1990s;

(b) if so, whether the recommendation has been implemented by the State Governments particularly that of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action Government propose to take to implement the recommendations of NCRL throughout the country for the benefit of agricultural workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. After discussion a consensus evolved in the State Labour Ministers' Conference held in February, 1992, the Central Government requested the State Governments to implement the recommendations. According to information available, almost all States including the States of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh have implemented this recommendation.

(d) Major steps taken to implement the recommendations of NCRL for the benefit of agricultural workers include taking up comprehensive Central legislation to regulate the employment and conditions of service and to provide for their welfare; improvement of infrastructural facilities in rural areas, intensified developmental programmes, self employment and financial assistance programmes; substantial increase in outlays for Rural Development during the VIIIth Plan and

Establishment Registered with B.I.F.R. having default of ESI and EPF due

990. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) number of establishments registered with BIFR having default of ESI dues and Employees Provident Fund dues as on 30th September, 1996;

(b) the outstanding amounts involved;

(c) the number of defaulting Public Sector establishments;

(d) number of defaulting establishments where the payment has been made from the Special Reserve Fund (SRF) formed under EPF Scheme and the total amount paid so far;

(e) whether ESI and EPF authorities are facing problems in recovery of EPF and ESI because of Section 22 of SICA; and

(f) if so, the action taken by the Government so far to tide over the problem?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) According to available information there are 346 establishments registered with BIFR having ESI arrear of Rs. 105.68 crore and 379 establishments registered with BIFR having EPF arrear of Rs. 132.00 crore.

(c) In public sector there are 93 establishments having ESI default and 236 establishments having EPF default.

(d) An amount of Rs. 6.20 crore has been paid from the Special Reserve Fund in respect of 37 unexempted defaulting establishments.

(e) and (f) Immediate coercive recovery action is not possible against the establishments registered with BIFR. However, necessary action as provided under the ESI Act and the EPF & MP Act is taken to recover the dues outstanding against the defaulting establishments.

A.I.T.U.C.'s demand for exemption from ESI Act

991. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Trade Union

establishments who were offering/giving better benefits to workers from the purview of the Employees State Insurance (ESI) Act; as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 20th January, 1997;

(b) whether the General Secretary of AITUC has taken exception to amendment to the ESI Act increasing the salary ceiling from Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 6,500 and termed this amendment as 'unkind act' and threatened to go on strike; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The wage ceiling for coverage under the ESI Act, 1948 has been revised from time to time. It was last revised from Rs. 1600/- to Rs. 3000/- per month w.e.f. 1.4.92. Since then there has been significant increase in wages. Consequently a large number of employees have gone out the ESI Scheme. The Labour Minister's Conference of Major States in a meeting held on 4.10.96 recommended enhancement of the wage ceiling for coverage under the ESI Scheme from Rs. 3000/- to Rs. 6500/- per month. The ESI Corporation which is a tripartite body comprising inter-alia 10 representatives of Central Trade Union Organisations including AITUC also considered and recommended the proposal in its meeting held on 5.10.96. The Central Government accepted the recommendation and enhanced the wage ceiling under the ESI Scheme from Rs. 3000/- to Rs. 6500/- per month with effect from 1.1.97. As such the action taken by the Government in this regard is timely and in larger interest of the workers.

Revising of rates of Royalty on Minerals

992. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of MINES to be please to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to revise the rates of royalty on minerals;

(b) if so, the details of minerals covered

(c) whether the State Governments have been consulted in this regard; and

(d) the details of revision of royalty on each of the minerals so decided by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (d) The Central Government constituted a Study Group on 30.1.95 for carrying out detailed review of rates of royalty and dead rent applicable to major minerals (other than Coal, lignite and sand for stowing) enumerated in the Second Schedule of the Mines & Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957. The Study Group had Members from some of the important mineral producing States and also had consultation with all the State Governments before submitting its Report. The proposal for Revision of Royalty Rates is under consideration of the Government.

देश की खनिज सम्पदा का हास होना

993. श्री अजीत जोगी: क्या खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या देश की खनिज सम्पदा का निरंतर हास हो रहा है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं;

(ग) देश में खनिज सम्पदा की खोज का कार्य बढ़ाने हेतु क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं; और

(घ) क्या सरकार खनिज की खोज का कार्य विदेशियों को सौंपने का विचार रखती है और यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है?

इस्पात मंत्री तथा खान मंत्री (श्री बीरेन्द्र प्रसाद बैश्य):

(क) और (ख) खनिज देश के ऐसे संसाधन हैं जिनका नवीकरण नहीं किया जा सकता। खनिज सम्पदा का हास विदोहित की गई मात्रा के अनुपात में है।

(ग) और (घ) भारतीय भूवैज्ञानिक सर्वेक्षण देश में गवेषण संबंधी कार्य करने वाला प्रमुख संगठन है और पूरे देश में खनिजों के गवेषण के लिए इसके नियमित कार्यक्रम हैं। इसके अलावा, संबंधित राज्य सरकारों के खान और भू-विज्ञान निदेशालयों द्वारा भी गवेषण कार्य किया जाता है। खनिज रियायतों की मंजूरी खान और खनिज (विनियमन और विकास) अधिनियम-1957 के प्रावधानों