

(c) and (d) The Government has announced stimulus packages in the form of development assistance, tax concession etc. to counter economic slowdown and promote growth which would be beneficial to the entire economy including the working class.

Minimum wages for women and children

3629. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that in many States of the country the minimum wages is different for women and children;
- (b) if so, whether child labour banned in Hazardous Industries and Equal Remuneration Act is prevailing in our country;
- (c) whether the Government is fixing different wages for males and females; and
- (d) whether Central Government will issue guidelines for giving equal wages for male and female workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) The minimum rates of wages fixed by the appropriate Government in respect of scheduled employments under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 are equally applicable to men and women. However, under the provisions of the Act, the appropriate Government can fix different minimum rates of wages for adults, adolescents, children and apprentices.

(b) to (d) Employment of child labour is prohibited in 16 occupations and 65 processes which are hazardous in nature and have been included in the schedule to the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986. The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 is in force in the country which provides for the payment of equal remuneration to men and women workers for the same work or work of a similar nature. Hence issuing separate guidelines is not necessary.

Creation of new ITIS and polytechnics

3630. SHRI ANIL H. LAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) faced with resource crunch for creating new educational centres such as NTs, IIMs and NIFTs at enormous cost, whether Government has put skill development on focus through creation of more ITIs and polytechnics;