

SHRI DHARMAVIR: Sir, regarding the query made by the honourable Member, there is no information available with me about this strike which is going on in that Government farm. But, as the honourable Member has mentioned it, I will try to find out the fact and will lay it on the Table of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What about the second part of the question, about head-loads to be carried by women?

SHRI DHARMAVIR: It is the same thing, Sir.

WELCOME TO SWEDISH DELEGATION

MR. CHAIRMAN. Honourable Members, we have guests here today. A Swedish delegation is sitting in the Special Box. We are very happy that they are with us and I welcome them on your behalf for having given us the privilege of having them amongst us.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS— CONTD.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Minister, you have to answer about the head-loads.

SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA: Sir, there was another part of the question, and it was whether the minimum wages for agricultural labourers fixed by the Karnataka Government are being paid in that farm which is owned by the Central Government. I would like to know the facts.

SHRI DHARMAVIR: I have already mentioned that there is no information specifically about this farm. Therefore, Sir, I have already said that I will find out and let him know.

SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA: Sir, I have to put my second supplementary. I am entitled to one more question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. I think I will have to learn my counting again.

SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA: Sir, in view of the fact that the prices of all essential consumer goods have been rising steadily and the latest consumer price index stands at 560 with 1960 as the base year, will the honourable Minister be pleased to state how many years back the wages of the agricultural labourers were fixed in different States and whether the Government considers it necessary to revise the wages in view of the rise in the cost of living due to the rise in the prices of all essential consumer goods?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: According to the provisions of the Act, the minimum wages revision should be undertaken at intervals not exceeding five years. But in the Labour Ministers' conference held in July 1980 a decision was taken to revise the minimum wages once in two years or on a rise of 50 points of consumer price index, whichever is earlier. So, according to that decision, from time to time the minimum wages are being revised, and so far as the Central Government is concerned, since 1980 four times the minimum wages for agricultural labour have been revised. Similarly, we have written to all the State Governments and we have been persuading the State Governments to revise the minimum wages, and most of the State Governments have already revised the minimum wages. If the hon. Member wants to know which are the States which have revised minimum wages, when they have revised the minimum wages and what are the revised minimum wages, I am prepared to place the entire literature on the Table of the Sabha.

श्री सुरज प्रसाद : मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि कौन-कौन से ऐसे राज्य हैं जिन राज्यों में मिनिमम वेजेज ऐक्ट का रिविजन हुआ है और सरकार द्वारा जो निर्धारित मजदूरी है उसका इम्प्लीमेंटेशन होता है ? दूसरे, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह बात सही है कि