

(b) in what manner Government are removing the difference between the minimum wages of the labourers working in the National Rural Employment Scheme under the Ministry of Rural Development recently and the wage fixed by Ministry of Labour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Central and the State Governments are the appropriate Governments to fix/revise minimum wages in respect of their scheduled employments. Regional Committees have been constituted to deliberate, *inter alia*, on the issue of bringing about a uniformity in minimum wages. Besides, the Central Government has mooted the concept of the National Floor Level Minimum Wage, which stands at Rs. 66/- per day w.e.f. 1.2.2004. All the State Governments are persuaded to fix minimum wages at rates not below the level of the National Floor Level Minimum Wage.

(b) Under Section 6(1) of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), until such time as a wage rate is fixed by the Central Government in respect of any area in a State, the minimum wage fixed by the State Government under Section 3 of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 for agricultural labourers shall be considered as the wage rate applicable to that area. The Central Government has not fixed any wage rate under Section 6(1) of the NREGA so far. Therefore, minimum wages fixed by the State Governments for agricultural labourers under the Minimum Wages Act are applicable.

Rescinding notification on fixed term employment

968. SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3443, given in Rajya Sabha on 17-05-2006 and state:

(a) whether a tripartite meeting was held on 21st June, 2006 on the issue of rescinding the fixed term employment notification of December, 2003;

(b) if so, whether State Government representatives were present as stakeholders, as claimed by the Labour Department;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the final outcome of the meeting;

(d) whether the order is being rescinded, as assured in the House on 15.07.2004; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (e) A tripartite meeting was held on 21st June, 2006 to discuss the amendment to the Industrial Employment (Standing Order) Act, 1946. The representatives of the State Governments were not invited for the meeting. However, consultations with the State Governments are going on. No consensus could be arrived at in the meeting. The matter is still under consideration.

Job security and welfare of the agricultural labour

969. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal for enacting a Central legislation to ensure job security and welfare of the agricultural labour in the country is pending for a long time; and

(b) if so, at what stage is this proposal and reason for delay in enactment of such a Central Legislation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) The proposal of enactment of a comprehensive legislation had been under consideration of the Government for a long time. However, due to lack of consensus amongst the State Governments on the proposed legislation, the matter could not be processed further

Categorised wage rate scheme

970. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the current national floor level minimum wages for agricultural labourers for unskilled, skilled, semi-skilled and highly skilled categories, separately;

(b) whether all the State Governments adhering to these revised rates of wages and have introduced the categorized wage rate scheme;

(c) if not, the reasons therefore and the efforts made by the Centre to persuade non-adhering States/UT to follow the revised rates;