

the Minimum Wages Advisory Board, set up under section 7 of the Minimum Wages Act, at its meeting held on the 15th July, 1982.

Recommendations on minimum wages

90. SHRI SURENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Labour Ministers' Conference in February, 1980 had made certain recommendations in respect of the minimum wages; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by the Central Government and the State Governments to give effect to these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRIMATI MOH-SINA KIDWAI): (a) The Labour Ministers' Conference held in July 1980, and not in February, 1980, made a number of recommendations regarding the minimum wages.

(b) One basic recommendation of the Conference was that minimum wages should be reviewed and, if necessary, revised once at least in two years, or on a rise of 50 points in Consumer Price Index Numbers, whichever is earlier. This and the other recommendations were brought to the notice of the State Governments for necessary action.

Since July 1980, 25 State Governments/Union Territories either fixed or revised the minimum wages in respect of various scheduled employments including agriculture in their States; 14 of these States either appointed Committees or notified proposals for the revision of minimum wages in respect of some scheduled employments.

During the same period the Central Government revised the minimum wages for the second time in respect of 27 mines, building and construction industry and in agriculture during

August-September 1982; in respect of one mine it was revised for the first time.

The State Governments have been advised to strengthen their enforcement machinery to ensure that nobody was paid less than the prescribed minimum wages.

Amendment of Minimum Wages Act

91. SHRI SURENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the various lacunae in the Minimum Wages Act, 1960 as brought out during its working;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government propose to amend the Act suitably in order to provide greater justice to the unorganised sector of workers; and

(d) whether forest and wood workers are also proposed to be covered under the schedule relating to minimum wages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRIMATI MOH-SINA KIDWAI): (a) to (c) Government have received several suggestions for amendment of the Minimum Wages Act aimed mainly at widening its scope and making it more effective. Government is considering certain proposals for amendment of the Act.

(d) Section 27 of the Minimum Wages Act empowers the appropriate Government to add such employments as it may consider necessary to the Schedule to the Minimum Wages Act. According to the information available 17 State Governments have added employments in Forestry and 22 State Governments/Administrations have added employments in Wood industries to the Schedule to the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.