

Revision of Minimum Wages

558. SHRI NARSINGH NARAIN PANDEY:

SHRI BHOLA PRASAD:

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM:

SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government in consultation with the State Governments proposing to revise minimum wages to include the farm labourers, if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is also considering recommendations of the Planning Commission to the effect that Minimum Wages may not be below poverty line; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government is also thinking to devise a mechanism to link the minimum wages to the consumer price index, if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) Persons working on a farm are already covered by the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, by virtue of part II of the schedule to the Act. The appropriate Government for fixing/revising rates of minimum wages in respect of Central Farms is the Central Government whereas in respect of other Farms, the State Governments concerned.

In the Conference of State Labour Ministers held in July 1980, it was recommended that minimum wages should be reviewed and revised, if necessary, once at least in two years or on a rise of 50 points in the CPI Numbers whichever is earlier. Recommendations of the Conference were communicated to the State Governments in August, 1980, for follow-up action. The Union Minister of State

for Labour has also written to the Chief Ministers/Heads of Union Territories, Administrations emphasising the need for timely revision of minimum wages. Proposals for revision of minimum wages in respect of employments in agriculture for which the Central Government is the appropriate Government have been notified on 19th November, 1981.

(b) In the meeting of the Working Group of certain State Labour Ministers held on 16-10-81 to review the proposals for amendment of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, it was, *inter alia* agreed that the general minimum wages should be fixed with regard to the basic needs of the workers at the level of the poverty line as defined by the Planning Commission.

(c) The Labour Ministers' Conference held in August, 1981 recommended that a mechanism should be devised to link the minimum wages to the consumer price index. The Minimum Wages (Central) Advisory Board at its 10th meeting held on 20-10-1981 has also suggested that it would be desirable to attach a variable DA formula to the minimum wages so that it may be adjusted as and when necessary to protect the real wages of workers.

Use of Gobar Gas

559. SHRI P. N. SUKUL:

SHRI ROSHAN LAL:

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether any R and D programme is in progress to find new uses for gobar gas to save diesel consumption in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ELECTRONICS AND ENVIRONMENT (SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH): Yes, Sir, R&D efforts have already led to development of engines working

on Biogas in combination with diesel oil which save 80 per cent of diesel consumption. Such engines are now commercially available and can be used as prime movers for a variety of agricultural and industrial applications, such as, irrigation pump sets, chaff cutters, threshers, crushers, flour mills and power generation. R&D programmes are continuing in various institutions to improve the efficiency and develop 100 per cent biogas operated engines.

Import of Computers

560. SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT:

SHRI BHAGAT RAM MANHAR:

SHRI SWAMI DINESH CHANDRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to import 140 fourth generation computers from U.S.A. for use in educational institutions in the country;

(b) if so, what is cost of the import and by when it is likely to be effected;

(c) whether indigenous and other sources were investigated before placing this bulk order with a single manufacturer and if so what are the details in this regard; and

(d) what are the names of the universities and Educational institutions which would acquire computers during 1980-81?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ELECTRONICS AND ENVIRONMENT (SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

Purchase of Mirage 2000 Combat Aircraft

561. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

SHRI SWAMI DINESH CHANDRA:

SHRI K.L.N. PRASAD:

SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the team led by the Defence Secretary during their recent visit to France finalised details for the purchase of French Mirage 2000 combat aircraft and other defence equipment from that country;

(b) if so, what are the detailed terms for the purchase of the said aircraft and equipment; and

(c) whether an agreement on the lines has since been signed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Para-Military Force for Dealing with Civil Disturbances

562. SHRI GHOUSE MOHIUDDIN SHEIKH:

SHRI GURUDEV GUPTA:

SHRI KALPNATH RAI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated a scheme to constitute a para-military force to deal with civil disturbances and insurgency;

(b) if so, what is the proposed strength of this force;

(c) whether the scheme provides for adequate representation of minorities Harijans and other weaker sections of the population in the force; and