

Payment of equal wages

96. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE:

DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that women workers are paid less wages than those paid to men in the three main plantations of tea, coffee and rubber;

(b) if so what steps have been taken to implement the payment of equal wages to women; and

(c) whether there has been an increase in the employment of children in the aforesaid plantations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH): (a) and (b) According to the Report on Third Occupational Wage Survey (1974-75) of Plantation Industries conducted by the Labour Bureau, the average daily earnings of men were higher than those of women in Plantation industry. The average minimum daily wage rate of women workers in rubber plantations were more than their male counterparts whereas, in coffee and tea plantations, it was less than those of men. This, however, does not necessarily imply that wage rates fixed for women workers were lower than those for men for similar work. The differences were mainly due to proportionately larger employment of women in comparatively less remunerative occupation. The Equal Remuneration Act, 1946 is extended to the Plantation Industry also. The State Governments/Union Territories are responsible for the implementation of the Act and the information so far received from the State Governments reveals that most of them have appointed appropriate Authorities for enforcement of the Act.

(c) According to the Third Occupational Wage Survey conducted by the Labour Bureau, the estimated number

of child workers declined in the Coffee Plantations as compared to the first survey, children were not employed in rubber Plantations. The estimated employment of children, however, registered an increase in tea plantations.

Survey of bonded labour

97. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE:

DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what are the statistics of bonded labour in each State;

(b) whether a fresh comprehensive survey of bonded labour is proposed to be conducted in the States; and

(c) whether States have urged the Central Government for additional funds, staff and jeeps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH): (a) A statement is enclosed. [Vide Cols. 95-96 supra U.Q. 90(a)].

(b) The State Governments have been requested to undertake urgent and effective steps including undertaking of intensive local surveys in susceptible areas and to secure the early eradication of bonded labourers wherever found existing.

(c) Certain State Governments have requested for Central Government's clearance for utilising the Central grants meant for rehabilitation of freed bonded labour, for purchase of jeeps and strengthening of administrative staff. The matter was considered in consultation with the Planning Commission. The requests of the State Governments were, however,