

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) The wages of workers in the coai, iron ore, limestone and dolomite mines were payable in terms of the recommendations of the Wage Boards. The Wage Boards are, however, not statutory bodies and the wage rates were not enforceable statutorily.

Wages of workers in gypsum, bauxite, barytes and manganese mines were fixed under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, on the 19th May, 1969. The rate of unskilled workers was fixed at Rs. 2.40 per day in manganese and barytes mines and at Rs. 2.60 per day in bauxite and gypsum mines. These have since been revised to Rs. 4.00 per day for the four classes of mines with effect from 17th July, 1973. These are enforced by Central Industrial Relations machinery.

(b) Employers paying wages less than those notified under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 and violating other provisions of the Act and Rules, are liable to legal action/prosecution under the Act.

Repatriating of Sick P.O.Ws.

888. SHRI GANESH LAL MALI:

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state the number of sick Pakistani POWs who have so far been repatriated to Pakistan, and the number of Indian and Bangladesh internees who have been returned by Pakistan in exchange thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): 1047 sick and wounded Pakistani Prisoners of War have so far been repatriated to Pakistan. The sick and wounded Prisoners of War are repatriated not on exchange basis but on humanitarian considerations. Therefore, the question of exchange of Pakistani Prisoners of War on the one hand and the Indian and Bangladesh internees on the other, does not arise. However, 33 Indian prisoners of war and 20 Bangal i Army men have been repatriated in the category of sick and wounded personnel.

Indian Assistance to South Vietnam

889. MISS SAROJ PURUSHOTTAM KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that South Vietnam has sought Indian help and cooperation in the reconstruction of that war torn-country, and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) Government of India have not been approached by South Vietnam in this connection.

(b) Does not arise.

Progressive Use of Hindi

S90. SHRI JAGAN NATH BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state the progress made by his Ministry in implementing the progressive use of Hindi in the main Ministry and in its attached and subordinate offices including statutory and non-statutory bodies since the passage of the official language (Amendment) Act; and which of the clauses of the orders issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs in pursuance of the Act have been implemented; and what is the number of Hindi Officers in the main Ministry and its offices and how many translators have been appointed to implement the Act?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

India Supply Mission, London

891. SHRI DWIJENDRALAL SEN GUPTA: Will the Minister of SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since selected a person to head the India Supply Mission, London; and

(b) if so, the name of the person selected?