

(b) Establishment of hospital is subject to allotment of land from State Government, fulfillment of regulatory requirement of physical infrastructure, equipment, etc., hence no definite time frame can be given.

Amendment of Minimum Wages Act

841. SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government intends to amend the Minimum Wages Act;
- (b) whether Government would announce the national minimum wage, occupation-wise; and
- (c) the number of industries Government intends to exempt from the purview of Minimum Wages Act ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Minimum wages are fixed both in the Central and State sphere by the appropriate Government for the scheduled employments under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. There is a National Floor Level Minimum Wage which has been fixed since 1996 and is revised from time to time based on changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and is presently fixed at ₹ 137 per day with effect from 01.07.2013.

(c) Minimum wages are applicable to all employments specified in Part-I and Part-II of the schedule in the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.

Licences for mining of garnet and ilmenite

842. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that Manavalakurichi in Southern Tamil Nadu is home to world's 30 per cent Thorium deposits;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that 96 out of 111 licenses for mining garnet have been given to one company/person;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the Ministry has issued 44 licenses for mining ilmenite and all 44 have been given to one individual/firm;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the reasons for giving licenses to one individual or firm; and
- (f) the procedure followed in issuing each of the above Licence?