

**Minimum wages for tea garden workers**

\*306.SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government is aware that the minimum wage of tea garden workers is different or varies in different parts of the country or within a State itself from garden to garden, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government proposes to have uniform minimum wages for tea garden labourers/workers throughout the country and fix the norms therefor; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the fixation of minimum wages for the Plantation Sector, falls under the purview of State Government which is the appropriate Government to fix/revise the minimum wages.

The wages being paid (Rs/day) in the major four tea growing States are as under:

Year	Assam		West Bengal	Tamil Nadu	Kerala
	Barak Valley	Brahmaputra Valley			
2014	95.00	112.00	95.00	209.27	216.53

The wages in the above mentioned major tea growing States are as per agreement reached between the producer associations and workers unions.

(b) and (c) It may not be possible to develop uniform system for fixing rates of wages throughout the country due to differences in socio-economic and agro-climatic conditions, prices of essential commodities, paying capacity, productivity and local conditions influencing the wage rate. However, a concept of National Floor Level Minimum Wage was introduced in 1996 to be applicable to all scheduled employments. This has been revised from time to time since then based on changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Industrial workers and is presently fixed at ₹ 137 per day with effect from 01.07.2013. At present the National Floor Level Minimum Wage (NFLMW) is not statutory in nature and State Governments are advised from time to time to fix the minimum wages not less than the National Floor Level Minimum Wage (NFLMW).

**Production and import of petroleum products**

\*307.SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of domestic production of petroleum products;