

**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;

(b) the quantum of petroleum products imported from other countries; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to become self-dependent to avoid losing huge foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The details of domestic production, import and export of petroleum products during the years 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 are as under:

Year	Production of petroleum products Million Metric Tonnes (MMT)	Import of petroleum products (₹ in crore)	Exports of petroleum Products (₹ in crore)
2011-12	203.99	68091	284643
2012-13	217.82	68363	320090
2013-14 (Provisional)	220.2	74605	368279

(c) The refinery sector has been delicensed since June, 1998 and a refinery can be set up anywhere in India by a private or public sector company depending on its techno-commercial viability.

The country's refining capacity has more than tripled over the last fifteen years from 69.99 MMT as of 1.4.1999 to 215.066 MMT as of 1.4.2014. The domestic consumption of petroleum products was 158.2 MMT during 2013-14. Thus the present capacity is adequate to meet the demand of petroleum products in the country in near future on an overall basis, except for LPG which is being imported, to supplement the domestic production. Overall the country is now a net exporter of petroleum products. The country has been exporting surplus petroleum products since 2001-02.

As the country is net exporter of petroleum products, the question of losing huge foreign exchange on import of petroleum products does not arise.

#### **Development of tourism in Tehri Dam area of Uttarakhand**

†\*308. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether projects are being operationalised by the Ministry for the development of tourism in Uttarakhand, including Tehri dam area of the State;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.