

a proposal to increase the eligibility limit and calculation ceiling under the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965.

Disparity in wages of plantation workers

408. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a huge wage disparity among the plantation workers;
- (b) if so, whether plantation workers in different parts of the country went on strike on the issue of disparity in wages;
- (c) whether the Centre and the concerned State Governments do not address the problems of the sector;
- (d) whether the State Governments have referred the case to the Ministry for settlement; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken to remove the disparity in wages of plantation workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Under the provision of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the appropriate Governments fix/revise and enforce minimum wage. As regard the Plantation Sector, the minimum wages are fixed by the State Governments concerned. As per available information the wages for plantation workers in various States are given in Statement (*See below*).

(b) The tea plantation workers in Kerala recently went on strike to enhance the wages from ₹ 238/- per day.

(c) The minimum wages in plantations are primarily fixed by the State Government. In Kerala, the minimum wages have already been enhanced to ₹ 301/- per day.

(d) and (e) No such cases have been received by this Ministry from State Governments for settlement.

Statement

The wages for plantation workers in various States

Sl.No.	Name of State	Wages per day (in ₹)
A. Cardamom		
1.	Kerala	267.00
2.	Karnataka	244.15

Sl.No.	Name of State	Wages per day (in ₹)
3.	Tamil Nadu	215.00
B. Coffee		
1.	Assam*	147.56
2.	Karnataka*	253.35
3.	Nagaland*	115.00
4.	Tamil Nadu*	203.52
5.	Kerala	301.00
C. Rubber		
1.	Assam*	147.56
2.	Kerala	381.00
3.	Tamil Nadu*	209.02
4.	Tripura*	144.85
D. Tea		
1.	Assam	
	Assam Valley	115.00
	Cachar	100.00
2.	Himachal Pradesh	180.00
3.	Karnataka	247.95
4.	Kerala	301.00
5.	Tamil Nadu	230.03
6.	Tripura	71.00
7.	West Bengal	122.50

*Source: Report on the Working of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 for the year 2013 published by Labour Bureau, Chandigarh.

Bharat bandh by central trade unions

409. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether almost all the central trade unions recently called for the Bharat Bandh in support of a 12 point charter demanding higher wages, social security, an end to privatization of public sector companies among other things;

(b) if so, the details thereof;