

minimum wages for different categories of workers employed in the scheduled employment under their respective jurisdictions. Rates fixed in the Central sphere are applicable to establishments under the authority of Central Government, railway administrations, mines, oil-fields, major port or any corporation established by a Central Act.

The enforcement of the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 has been prescribed under provisions of the Act. It is secured at two levels. The implementation of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 is carried out by the Centre as well as the States in respect of their respective jurisdiction.

Increasing maternity leave for working women

2829. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering increasing the maternity leave for working women from the existing 12 weeks to 26 weeks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there are plans to provide 12 weeks of maternity leave to commissioning mothers who use surrogates to bear a child as well as for working women adopting a baby; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government held discussions with the trade unions and employers in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A proposal to provide 16 weeks maternity benefit to a woman who legally adopts a child upto 3 months of age and to a commissioning mother is under consideration of the Government.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Ensuring payment of minimum wages to workers

2830. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no foolproof mechanism to ensure the maintenance of permanent register for the workers in private sector factories for payment of minimum wages;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this has led to large scale contract employment in the private sector; and

(c) the action the Government proposes to take to ensure payment of minimum wages to the workers in private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c) The implementation of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 and the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, are carried out by the Centre as well as the States in respect of their respective jurisdiction. The compliance in all aspects in the State sphere is ensured through the State Enforcement Machinery. Labour Department of the concerned State Governments are the appropriate Authority to ensure the same. The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 and the Payment of Wages Act, 1936 are applicable to employees including Contract employees to ensure that they are not deprived of any benefits that the two Acts extend to employees.

**Extending the benefit of maternity leave
to unorganised sector**

2831. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposal by Government to increase the maternity leave will benefit only 25 per cent of the total women work force, which is in the formal sector; and

(b) whether Government is considering to ensure similar benefits to the women in unorganised sector also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) A proposal to increase maternity leave from existing 12 weeks to 26 weeks under the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 will benefit women employed in the establishments covered under the Act.

(b) No, Sir.

Rehabilitation assistance for bonded labour

2832. SHRI A. U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of individuals whose bonded labour rehabilitation assistance is pending before the Ministry;