

Proposal for a National Minimum Wages Act

†91. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether minimum wages is fixed by State Governments and Central Government has no role therein and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Central Government proposes to constitute a National Minimum Wages Act, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Under the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, both Central and State Governments are appropriate Governments to fix, review and revise the minimum wages for different categories of workers employed in the scheduled employment under their respective jurisdictions.

The Central Government further, in order to have a uniform wage structure and to reduce the disparity in minimum wages across the country, fixes/revises National Floor Level Minimum Wage (NFLMW) on the basis of the recommendations of the National Commission on Rural Labour (NCRL) in 1991. The NFLMW has been revised at ₹ 160/- per day *w.e.f.* 01.07.2015.

Since the NFLMW presently is a non-statutory measure, the State Governments are persuaded to fix/revise minimum wages in such a way that in none of the scheduled employments, the minimum wage is less than National Floor Level Minimum Wage. The Minimum Wages Act extends to the whole of India.

ESI services in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

92. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is diluting the labour laws, particularly the social security net offered through Employees' State Insurance, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the existing ESI services in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana will be revamped for better delivery and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. Under its ESIC 2.0 agenda, the Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Corporation has taken a number of reform initiatives for better delivery of existing

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

ESI services throughout the country, including Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. As part of this reform initiatives, steps have been taken for up-gradation/modernization of hospitals and dispensaries, as under:

- Availability of electronic health records of patients
- Up-gradation of dispensaries to 6 bedded set-up (in a phased manner)
- Day-wise change of bed sheets in the hospitals
- 24x7 medical helpline
- Evening OPD for senior citizen and differently abled patients
- Cancer detection/ treatment facilities
- Cardiology and Dialysis treatment facilities
- OPD registration through mobile phones
- Complete immunization facilities
- Facilities of Yoga
- Telemedicine facilities
- AYUSH facilities

Draft model law to allow shops to open round the clock

93. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has framed any draft model law to allow shops to open round the clock in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status thereof and the reasons for introducing such a law;

(c) whether the draft model law has provisions to safeguard the interest of workers especially the women workers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (d) The Government is in the process of finalizing draft Model Shop and Establishment Act with a view to bringing about uniformity in the legislative provisions, making it easier for all the States to adopt it.