

has ever been conducted in India. The Bonded Labour System has been abolished by law throughout the country with effect from 25th October, 1975 under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Ordinance which was replaced by The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. The responsibility for implementing the Act lies with the State Governments. As and when existence of bonded labour is detected, such persons are identified, released by judicial procedure as per The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 and rehabilitated by the State Governments under the Central Sector Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourer, 2016. According to the reports received from the State Governments, the total number of bonded labourers identified and released is 3,02,391 as on 31.03.2016.

Revision of minimum wages

1117. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is in the process of revising upwards, the minimum wages for millions of workers in several key sectors including agriculture, construction and mining;

(b) whether this proposal to revise the minimum wages for 45 economic activities in the central sphere will also serve as a benchmark for minimum wages in the States too;

(c) whether major metropolitan cities will be clubbed under one category for the purpose of wages, with the rest of the country divided into two other categories with lower income structures; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) The revision of Basic Minimum Wage in respect of 45 scheduled employments in the Central Sphere is done in consultation with the Minimum Wages Advisory Board (MWAB) which is a tripartite body. The last meeting of MWAB was held on 26.05.2016.

(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.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.