

Withdrawal of proposal regarding health insurance policies

†95. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has withdrawn its proposal for procuring health insurance policies for employees from the market;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, by when the employees would get this facility and the benefits thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c) Sir, there was no proposal for procuring health insurance policies for employees from the market by the Government. However, in the Budget Speech of 2015-16, Hon'ble Finance Minister had proposed that the employee should have the option of choosing either Employee State Insurance (ESI) or a Health Insurance product, recognized by the Insurance Regulatory Development Authority (IRDA). To facilitate such option, the Ministry has completed the Inter-Ministerial consultation for amending the ESI Act, 1948.

Increase in minimum wages

96. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the methodology used for raising the minimum wage from ₹ 246 per day to ₹ 350 per day for unskilled non agricultural workers for Category C;

(b) whether the methodology of determining the minimum wage at ₹ 350 per day determined by the Ministry is according to the recommendation by the Central Seventh Pay Commission, if not, what is the difference and the reason for the difference; and

(c) whether Government is following the revision of variable dearness allowance (VDA) according to the Consumer Price Index in every two years as per the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) In the Central Sphere, the minimum rates of wages have been raised from ₹ 246 per day to ₹ 350 per day

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.