

National policy for agricultural labourers

2342. SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR:

SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to bring a National Policy for Agricultural Labourers in the country;

(b) if so, the details along with its salient features thereof; and

(c) the manner in which the policy is proposed to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) In view of the (a) above, do not arise.

Violation of minimum wages law

†2343. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a difference between minimum wages paid by Central Government and State Governments, if so, the scheme of Central Government to give higher minimum wages;

(b) whether by violating Minimum Wages Law of Central and State Governments payment agreement done in the year 2015 using pressure tactics is legal;

(c) if that is not legal, whether the ₹ 140/- per day agreement signed by Beedi employers with labour organisations involved in these works in Solapur Beedi industry is legal; and

(d) if not, whether Government will take action on them so that every Beedi worker gets minimum wages from Beedi employers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) 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 of the 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 administration, mines, oil-fields, major port or any corporation

established by a Central Government. Employment other than the scheduled employment for central Sphere come under the purview of State Government and accordingly State Government wages are applicable in such employments.

(b) to (d) Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the enforcement is secured at two levels. While in the Central Sphere the enforcement is secured through the Inspecting Officers of the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) commonly designated as Central Industrial Relations Machinery (CIRM), the compliance in the State Sphere is ensured through the State Enforcement Machinery. The designated inspecting officers' conduct regular inspections and in the event of detection of any case of non-payment/underpayment of minimum wages, they direct the employers to make payment of the shortfall of wages. In case of non-compliance, penal provisions prescribed under Section 22 of the said Act are taken recourse to.

Beedi workers fall under the purview of State sphere, wherein, the State Governments as the appropriate Governments have fixed the minimum rates of wages for them under their respective jurisdiction.

Access to hospitals under ESIC to all citizens

2344. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to give all citizens access to hospitals under Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it also offers subsidised/free medicines as well as out-patient and in-patient facilities at a nominal cost; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Under the provision of Section 73B of ESI Act, ESI Corporation in its 175th meeting held on 18.09.2018 has taken a decision for providing access to Non-Insured Persons for medical services in its under-utilised ESIC Hospitals at Alwar (Rajasthan), Bihta (Bihar) and Gulbarga (Karnataka).

(c) and (d) As a Pilot Scheme for one year in its 176th meeting held on 05.12.18, ESI Corporation has decided to levy user charges on non-Insured Persons availing medical services from its underutilised ESIC Hospitals. It is proposed to levy user charges, as per following terms:—