

WELCOME TO THE PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM SURINAME

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have to make an announcement on my own and your behalf. I have great pleasure in welcoming Shri Marinus Bee, Chairman of the National Assembly of the Republic Suriname, and the accompanying Members of the Parliamentary delegation of Suriname, who are on a visit to India as our honoured guests.

The Parliamentary delegation from Suriname arrived in India on Sunday, the 4th February, 2024, and now is seated in the Special Box. Besides Delhi, they will visit Agra before their final departure from India. We wish them a happy and fruitful stay in our country. Through them, we convey our greetings and best wishes to the Members of Parliament of Suriname, the Government and the friendly people of Suriname.

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION - *Contd.*

Need to increase minimum wages in the Country

SHRI SANDOSH KUMAR P (Kerala): Sir, there is an urgent I mean, a critical need to increase the minimum wages of workers in the country. Minimum wage is a concept which is universally accepted for combating poverty and stabilising the economy. But, unfortunately, in our country, the National Minimum Wage is shockingly low, that is, just Rs.178 for eight hours. So, the Central trade unions and the Samyukta Kisan Morcha are demanding an increase in this and, at least, Rs.26,000 per month must be provided for the workers in our country.

As you all know, 90 per cent of the work force is in the informal sector and they do not have any social security or security of their jobs. The working conditions are very miserable, and, in fact, there is no job contract as such.

[THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON (SHRIMATI SEEMA DWIVEDI) *in the Chair.*]

Amongst the States also, there is huge disparity. For example, in Kerala, it is Rs. 837 for eight hours whereas in Gujarat it is Rs. 296 and in Tripura, it is Rs. 250. This shows that there is huge disparity amongst the States as well and we need to enhance the minimum wages. In the year 2019, the Anoop Satpathy Committee