

From the above figures, it will be seen that the fault rate has gone down in the last three months.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There was no delay in rectifying the defective telephones. In MTNL, Delhi, 70% of the telephones reported faulty get attended to by the following day and majority of the balance 30% faults are attended within the next two days. However, in case of cable breakdowns or theft it may take a little longer to restore the interruption.

(d) Does not arise.

Import of Coal

3789. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Maharashtra State Government is importing coal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details thereof regarding amount etc; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to meet the demands of coal in the country itself?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) Coal can be freely imported under the present import policy and the same is made by the consumers themselves considering their needs and exercising their own commercial judgement.

(c) Coal projects have a long gestation periods. The actual level of production and its supplies depend on the long term projections made initially by the consumers and the investments made less in new and ongoing projects as well as within the overall constraints of transportation, infrastructure and payment for coal supplies by the consumers. However, the steps taken to improve the production of coal in the country include opening of new mines and increasing efficiency and productivity in the existing mines by modernisation and application of new technologies and ensuring timely availability of inputs and infrastructure facilities. In addition private sector is being allowed to mine coal for specified captive use.

[English]

Drug Peddling

3790. SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY :

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government have been drawn into the news item captioning '3 charged with drug peddling acquitted' appeared in the "Times of India" dated November 23, 1995;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken note of the remark made by the judge that 'the entire search and seizure made by the police was illegal as they had not complied the mandatory requirements of Sector 50 of the Narootic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act'; and

(c) if so, the action has been taken against the police officials for their negligence in handling the case resulting in the acquittal of the known inter-State smugglers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (PROF. M. KAMSON) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Import of Naphtha

3791. SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of naphtha and natural gas liquified imported during 1994-95 and proposed to be imported during the current financial year; and

(b) the rates at which naphtha and natural gas liquified are being exported/imported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) Indian Oil Corporation has not imported Naphtha and Natural Gas Liquified (NGL) during the year 1994-95 and between April-November, 1995. There is no proposal to import these products this year by IOC. Private sector parties imported about 360 TMT of naphtha during 1994-95.

(b) The weighted average price of Naphtha and NGL exported during the period April-Oct., 1995 as under :-

	(Provisional) Rate/MT
	US \$
Naphtha	148.73
NGL	132.13

Minimum Consumption Expenditure

3792. SHRI SOBHANADRESSWARA RAO VADDE : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the Government's estimates, the minimum consumption expenditure for living a standard life above poverty line is fixed at Rs. 11,000 per annum for rural areas and Rs. 11,800 for urban areas;

(b) if so, the minimum consumption requirement for a three unit family;

(c) whether the Minimum wage of the Central Government employees is commensurate to this requirement; and

(d) the names of the States which have revised the minimum wage for maintaining living standard of three consumption unit family above poverty line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA) : (a) and (b) The poverty line estimate made by the Planning Commission is in terms of monthly per capita expenditure of Rs. 181.5 in rural areas and Rs. 209.5 in urban areas at 1991-92 prices. This is the minimum consumption expenditure required to maintain a standard of life above poverty line. In terms of annual house-hold expenditure this is expressed as Rs. 11060 in rural areas and Rs. 11850 in urban areas rounded off to Rs.11000 and Rs.11800 respectively. The poverty line for the house-hold is based on average family size of 5.08 in rural areas and 4.71 in the urban areas derived from National Sample Survey data on consumer expenditure of 43rd round (1987-88). The minimum consumption requirement for a three member family would be Rs.6534 for rural areas and Rs.7542 for urban areas.

(c) and (d) Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, both the Central Government as well as the State Governments are the appropriate government for the fixation/revision of minimum rates of wages for scheduled employments falling under their respective jurisdiction. The Central Government is responsible for the fixation of minimum rates of wage in respect of 40 scheduled employments and the wages fixed for these employments are commensurate with the minimum consumption requirement estimated by the Planning Commission. There are no uniform criteria adopted by the different State Governments for fixation of minimum wages. The State Governments, in addition to the criteria recommended by the Indian Labour Conference (1957), have also been taking into account various factors such as socio-economic conditions, market forces varying cost of living, etc. while fixing/revising the minimum wages. A statement indicating the range of minimum wages for unskilled workers in different States/Union Territories is attached.

STATEMENT

Minimum Rates of Wages for the Unskilled Workers in Different States/Union Territories Admn. As on 3.8.1995

S.No.	Name of State Govt./ U.T. Administration	Minimum Rate of wages & date of revision	Remarks
1	2	3	4
I. STATE			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Rs. 11.00 to* Rs. 40.00 p.d. (11.10.94)	Rates vary from employment to employment
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Rs. 21.00 to Rs. 24.00 p.d. (1.11.90)	Rates vary from employment to employment and areas to areas.
3.	Assam	Rs. 25.30 to* Rs. 32.00 p.d. (10.2.92)	Rates vary from employment to employment.
4.	Bihar	Rs. 21.00 to Rs. 34.00 p.d. (19.7.93)	Rates vary from employment to employment.
5.	Goa	Rs. 14.00 to Rs. 27.00 p.d. (7.2.92)	Rates vary from employment to employment.

1	2	3	4
6.	Gujarat	Rs. 15.00 to* Rs. 37.50 p.d. (1.4.94)	Rates vary from employment to employment (according to zones)
7.	Haryana	Rs. 1189.30 p.m.* (1.7.94)	Single rates for all employment.
8.	Himachal Pradesh	Rs. 24.00 p.d. to Rs. 26.00 p.d. (14.11.93)	Double rates for all employment.
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	Rs. 15.00 p.d. (24.3.89)	Single rates for all employment.
10.	Karnataka	Rs. 23.44 to* Rs. 32.53 p.d. (22.7.92)	Rates vary from employment to employment (according to zones)
11.	Kerala	Rs. 19.50 to* Rs. 76.40 p.d. (31.3.92)	Rates vary from employment to employment (according to zones)
12.	Madhya Pradesh	Rs. 30.36 p.d.* Rs. 33.92 p.d. (29.1.94)	Rates vary from employment to employment.
13.	Maharashtra	Rs. 8.00 to* Rs. 69.10 p.d. (29.6.94)	Rates vary from employment to employment (according to zones)
14.	Manipur	Rs. 37.90 p.d. (for plain) Rs.40.90 p.d. (1.6.90) (for Hill areas)	Double rate for all employment.
15.	Meghalaya	Rs. 35.00 p.d. (16.3.94)	Single rate for all employment.
16.	Mizoram	Rs. 28.00 p.d. (6.7.92)	Single rate for all employment.
17.	Nagaland	Rs. 25.00 p.d. (6.7.92)	Single rate for all employment.
18.	Orissa	Rs. 25.00 p.d. (1.7.92)	Single rate for all employment.
19.	Punjab	Rs. 40.52 p.d.* (1.3.93)	Single rate for all employment.

1	2	3	4
20.	Rajasthan	Rs. 22.00 p.d. (2.7.90)	Single rate for all employment.
21.	Sikkim	Nil	Minimum wages Act, 1948 is yet to be extended and enforced.
22.	Tamil Nadu	Rs. 10.00 to* Rs. 56.25 p.d. (27.1.93)	Rates vary from employment to employment (according to zones)
23.	Tripura	Rs. 11.80 to Rs. 23.65 p.d. (1.1.90)	Rates vary from employment to employment (according to zones)
24.	Uttar Pradesh	Rs. 468.00 to* Rs. 1038.00 p.m. (3.1.94)	Rates vary from employment to employment (according to zones)
25.	West Bengal	Rs. 17.40 to* Rs. 45.16 p.d. (1.1.93)	Rates vary from employment to employment (according to zones)
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	Rs. 27.00 to Rs. 28.00 p.d. (13.8.92)	Rates vary from employment to employment (according to zones)
27.	Chandigarh	Rs. 1043.50 p.m.* (22.2.90)	Single rates for all employment.
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Rs. 19.50 to Rs. 29.65 p.d. (15.12.92)	Rates vary from employment to employment (according to zones).
29.	Daman & Diu	Rs. 22.00 to Rs. 27.00 p.d. (19.3.93)	Single rates for all employment
30.	Delhi	Rs. 57.50 p.d.* (1.2.95)	Single rates for all employment.
31.	Lakshdweep	Rs. 30.00 p.d. (1.1.95)	Single rates for all employment.
32.	Pondicherry	Rs. 8.00 to Rs. 14.00 p.d. (15.12.89)	Rates for agricultural workers.
II. *CENTRAL GOVERNMENT		Rs. 31.02 to Rs. 46.42 p.d. (1.4.95)	Rates vary from employment to employment (according to areas)

Note : * Indicates the provision of variable dearness allowance alongwith minimum rates of wages.