

Delhi Administration have already decided to widen this road to four lanes with divided carriageway and work is expected to start shortly. After widening of the road and provision of Zebra crossing at suitable locations, the road is likely to be quite safe for pedestrians.

Wages to farm Labour in rural Areas

4597. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the various steps taken by Government to ensure wages on permanent basis to the farm labour in rural areas with a view to keeping them fruitfully employed;

(b) whether Government have under consideration any proposal to treat the farm labour at par with the industrial labour; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH): (a) The minimum wages for agricultural workers are fixed and revised from time to time by the appropriate Governments under the Minimum Wages Act. At a meeting of the Labour Secretaries held in April, 1980, it was agreed that the following steps should be taken for more effective implementation of the Act:—

(i) Implementation of the minimum wages in agriculture should be pursued vigorously as an item of the 20-point programme.

(ii) There should be a separate machinery for implementation of labour laws in general and implementation of minimum wages in agriculture in particular at district and taluq levels. Such machinery should take the assistance of the revenue, panchayat and other department depending on the conditions in individual States.

(iii) Tripartite committees should be formed at different levels within the State to oversee the imple-

mentation of minimum wages in agriculture.

(iv) The workers education programmes should be intensified in rural areas to bring about an awareness among the agricultural workers about their rights in regard to minimum wages payable by the employer under the Minimum Wages Act.

(v) Steps should be taken to promote the organisation of labour in rural areas which would facilitate the implementation of minimum wages in agriculture.

(b) & (c): The minimum wages for farm labour are fixed practically on similar lines as in the case of industrial workers. The Central Standing Committee on rural unorganised labour have made certain recommendations regarding organising the agricultural workers. Their better organisation may be able to secure them higher wages as in the organised Industrial Sector.

Departmental canteen at Government Medical Store Depot, Madras

4598. SHRI THAZHAJ M. KARUNANITHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that employees are working for more than 8 years with a meagre salary in the departmental canteen functioning at Government Medical Store Depot, Madras;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Ministry of Home Affairs (Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms) Notification No. 6(2)23/77/Welfare dated 11th December, 1979 has not been given effect to in the Government Medical Store Depot, Madras; and

(d) if so, when this will be implemented and the arrears paid to them?