

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:67
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2005
AGRICULTURAL WORKERS
Jogi Shri Ajit;Rao Shri Kavuru Samba Siva

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any study to assess the extent of poverty and hunger being suffered by millions of agricultural wage workers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the wages paid to these agricultural workers, State-wise;
- (d) whether the prevalent practice of low wages in the sector is affecting agricultural production;
- (e) if so, the remedial measures taken in this regard;
- (f) whether the agricultural workers from the largest percentage of people living below poverty line;
- (g) if so, whether the Government proposes to enact a comprehensive legislation to protect the interests of wage labour working in the agricultural sector; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO)

(a) to (h): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in part (a) to (h) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 67 for 28.11.2005 regarding Agricultural Workers

(a), (b) & (f): The Government has made assessment of incidence of poverty for the population as a whole. According to the NSSO survey (1999-2000), about 26% of the population is living Below Poverty Line. Rural economy being agriculture based, a large number of agricultural labourers live below the poverty line. However, no estimate of poverty among agricultural workers separately is available.

(c) to (e): Under the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act,1948, both Central and State Governments are the appropriate Governments to fix and revise minimum wages in the scheduled employments under their respective jurisdictions. According to the Act, the appropriate Governments review/ revise the minimum wages in the scheduled employments under their respective jurisdictions at an interval not exceeding five years. In certain cases minimum wages include variable dearness allowance (VDA), which is reviewed/ revised periodically twice a year effective April and October. A statement indicating the rates of minimum wages for agricultural workers by different Governments both in State and Central spheres is at Annexure. The wages of agricultural workers do not directly affect the agriculture production as such as other factors like climatic conditions, farming practices, etc. play a crucial role in agricultural production.

(g) & (h): A proposal of enactment of a comprehensive legislation of the agricultural workers had been under consideration of the Government. However, due to lack of consensus amongst the state governments, the proposal could not be processed further.

Annexure

DAILY RATES OF MINIMUM WAGES FOR AGRICULTURAL WORKERS FIXED BY DIFFERENT STATES/UNION TERRITORY ADMINISTRATIONS UNDER THE MINIMUM WAGES ACT, 1948

S.NO	State/Union Territory Administration	Minimum Wages for Unskilled Agricultural Workers in rupees	With effect from
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1.	Andhra Pradesh#	64.00 to 84.00 (as per zone)	5.11.2004
2.	Arunachal Pradesh#	55.00 (Area -I) 57.00 (Area-II)	18.08.2005
3.	Assam	69.00	1.4.2005
4.	Bihar	66.00	1.2.2004

5. Chhattisgarh 52.87 1.4.2002
 6. Goa# 94.00 27.6.2003
 7 Gujarat 50.00 1.4.2002
 8. Haryana 84.29 with meal 1.7.2004
 88.29 without meal
 9. Himachal Pradesh# 65.00 27.10.2003
 10. Jammu & Kashmir# 66.00 06.06.2005
 11. Jharkhand \$
 12. Karnataka 56.48 1.4.2003
 13. Kerala # 72.00 for light work
 125.00 for hard work 31.12.2004
 14. Madhya Pradesh 56.96 1.10.2004
 15. Maharashtra Zone-I 51.00
 Zone-II 49.00
 Zone-III 47.00
 Zone-IV 45.00 1.07.2004
 16. Manipur 72.40 1.7.2005
 17. Meghalaya 70.00 1.4.2004
 18. Mizoram# 91.00 1.1.2005
 19. Nagaland# 66.00 12.05.2004
 20. Orissa 52.50 1.1.2004
 21. Punjab 87.59 1.9.2004
 22. Rajasthan# 73.00 20.7.2004

 23. Sikkim The Minimum Wages Act,1948 has been
 extended w.e.f.1.10.2004.
 24. Tamil Nadu# 64.00 17.07.2004
 25. Tripura# 50.00 20.8.2002
 26. Uttar Pradesh 58.00 1.1.2004
 27. Uttaranchal 73.00 1.08.2004
 28. West Bengal 62 with meal
 65 without meal 31.12.2004
 29. Andaman & Nicobar# 100.00 (Andaman)
 107.00(Nicobar) 25.11.2004
 30. Chandigarh 114.00 1.4.2005
 31. Dadra & Nagar Haveli 89.00 1.4.2005
 32. Daman & Diu \$
 33. Delhi 122.00 31.08.2005
 34. Lakshadweep \$
 35. Pondicherry
 # Pondicherry 45.00 to 54.00 for 5 Hours 21.6.2005

 # Mahe Region 120.00 for light work 25.1.2005
 #Yanam Region (proposed for 8 Hours)
 # Karaikal 160.00 for hard work 25.1.2005
 -do- 8.7.2002
 55.00 to 75.00 for 6 Hours
 45.00 to 54.00 for 5 Hours 21.6.2002
 Central Sphere 102.78 to 114.78 20.10.2005

No provision of Variable Dearness Allowance for agricultural workers in the State.

\$ Not available The Minimum Wages also include the variable dearness allowance, wherever provided.