

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:130
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2006
WAGES FOR AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS
Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao

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

- (a) whether all the State Governments are adhering to the Union Government's revised rates of wages for the agricultural labourers;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether all the States have introduced the categorised wages rate scheme;
- (d) if so, whether the Union Government has carried out the State-wise assessment of the labourers covered under the categorised rates of wages; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

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

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No 130 by Prof. Mahadeorao Shiwankar regarding wages for Agricultural Labourers due for answer on 27.2.2006.

(a) to (c): Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, minimum wages are fixed/revised by the appropriate Governments under their respective jurisdiction. Accordingly, both Central and State Governments independently fix minimum wages for agricultural labourers categorizing them on the basis of skill, area/zone and operations in certain cases. A table indicating category-wise minimum wages for agricultural labourers fixed by the appropriate Governments is annexed. However, in order to reduce the disparity in minimum wages across the country, the Central Government prescribes national floor level minimum wage which stands at Rs.66/- per day w.e.f. 1.2.2004. The national floor level minimum wage applies to all employments including agriculture. Since it has no statutory backing, the State Governments are persuaded to fix/revise minimum wages in scheduled employments under their respective jurisdiction so that they are at least at par with the national floor level minimum wage. As evident, notified minimum wages in agricultural employments are less than the national floor level minimum wage for all or certain categories in the States/UT of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhatisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tripura, West Bengal and Pondicherry. The Central Government continues to persuade these States/UT to revise the minimum wages so as to be at least at par with the national floor level minimum wage.

(d) to (e): Any wage, above the statutory minimum wage, is to be determined by the demand and supply condition in the market. Therefore, wages received by agricultural labourers vary from area to area, time to time and operation to operation. While as per Census 2001, there are about 10.68 crore agricultural labourers in the country, its distribution, wage-category wise, is not feasible.