

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3555  
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2006  
TENDU LEAF WORKERS  
Mahto Shri Tek Lal;Mediyam Dr. Babu Rao

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

- (a) whether tendu leaf workers are reportedly being exploited;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the rates of wages for skilled, semi-skilled and proficient workers related to this industry;
- (d) whether the Government is contemplating to increase the wages of these workers; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the other facilities provided by the Government for above workers?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU)

(a) & (b): No, Sir. No such report has been received. However, there may be some violation of Minimum Wages Act, 1948 or other Acts applicable to such workers, which are to be enforced by respective State Governments.

(c) & (d): As the occupation related to tendu leaf workers falls under the State sphere, the rates of minimum wages are reviewed/revised by the appropriate Government as per the provisions of Minimum Wages Act, 1948. As per the available information, rates of minimum wages for tendu leaf workers are as below:-

State	Name of Schedule employment Category	Rate of wages
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Bihar	Plucking	Unskilled/male 68
	Processing of Tendu Leaves	Munshi 70
	Supervisor or Checker	84

Orissa	Kendu Leaf collection	Unskilled 55
		Semi-skilled 65
		Skilled 75
		Highly skilled 85

(e): Government Schemes relating to poverty alleviation/income generation as are applicable to rural poor are also applicable to these workers since majority of such workers form part of the rural poor. Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has been implementing `Tendu Patta Leaf Collectors` Group Insurance Scheme in Madhya Pradesh since 1991 & in Chhattisgarh. 33 lakh workers in Chhattisgarh and 15 lakh workers in Madhya Pradesh have been enrolled under the scheme, which provides a death cover of Rs. 3500/-, and of Rs.25,000/- in case of death due to accident. The entire amount of premium is paid by the respective Governments.