

of standing orders on the basis of which the labourers are being exploited, I would like to submit that the standing orders are not above the law. However, if labour laws are being overlooked and standing orders are followed instead and such a thing comes to the notice of the Government, action will be taken. Apart from this, the suggestion of constituting a commission has a wider ambit. It is in the interest of the labour force that labourers are may not be exploited and this suggestion is under consideration in the Ministry.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Committee has made certain recommendations and has given suggestions in this regard. I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister as to what are the recommendations made by the Committee regarding abolishing the contract labour system. What steps does the Government propose to take to protect the labourers? Whether the Government intend to take any action to abolish the contract labour system or not? If it is going to take any action, the time by which it is likely to take and if not, the reasons therefor?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : The concern expressed regarding problems relating to contract labour system is genuine and this issue is under the consideration of the Government. An announcement is likely to be made in this regard very shortly.

SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minimum Wages Act is being violated in Madhya Pradesh. Along with the contract labourers, the daily wagers working in the Government Departments are also drawing less amount than the stipulated minimum wages. I would like to know from Hon'ble Minister as to whether the Government is aware of it? If so, what action does the Government propose to take in this regard?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : Sir, the minimum wages stipulated in Madhya Pradesh is Rs. 26.46 and maximum is Rs. 55.19. Hon'ble Member has spoken of the violation of Minimum Wages Act in Madhya Pradesh. I do not have the information as to how much dearness allowance should be added to Rs. 26.46 but over all the minimum wages should not be less than Rs. 35.

SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI : Will you look into it?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : It will be looked into and if the wages are found to be less than the required minimum wages, the State Government will be asked to rectify it.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Militancy in J & K

85. **SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN :**
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the recent massacre by the militants in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the number of persons killed by the militants in the State of Jammu and Kashmir since the beginning of 1998;

(c) whether the Government have found any evidence of the involvement of any of our neighbouring countries in encouraging the militancy in J & K; and

(d) if so, the efforts made by the Government to bring normalcy in J & K?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) Yes, Sir. A Group of armed militants killed 26 persons in the night of April 17/18, 1998 at Parankot and Dhakikot villages in Udhampur district.

(b) The number of persons killed by militants in 1998 (upto 30.4.98) is as below :

Civilian	Security Force
248	62

(c) It is a well known fact that Pakistan is sponsoring, aiding and abetting militancy in J & K. Interrogation reports of a number of militants arrested by Security Forces and diaries/documents etc. recovered from them have confirmed this fact.

(d) The steps taken by the Government to tackle militancy in J & K include sustained anti-terrorist operations by the Police and the Security Forces, including intensive patrolling on the border/LOC and hinterland, establishing pickets in vulnerable areas, strengthening of State Police, strengthening of the intelligence network and coordination of security arrangements among various agencies. Development needs of the State are also receiving urgent attention and the State Government is facilitated in its various efforts to restore normalcy.

Mahajan Committee on Sugar Industry

*86. **SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN :**
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :