

[English]

- (iv) **Need to ensure payment of minimum wages to agricultural labour**

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA (Aurangabad): Despite there being legislation enforcing minimum wages in agriculture, there are regular complaints that these minimum wages are not being paid in many areas. The Union Government has overall responsibility to ensure that minimum wages are revised periodically and applied. The State Labour Ministers also meet regularly under the Central Government's aegis to review the implementation of minimum wages legislation. However, it seems that no thought has been given as to why the decision to pay minimum wages remains unimplemented despite all these precautions. Apart from the attitude of some landholders, it must also be considered whether agricultural operations in all places are profitable enough to help even those landholders who want to abide by the law, to pay the minimum wages. There should be adequate interaction between the Agriculture Ministry and the Labour Ministry on this issue so that agricultural operations are made profitable enough for better wages to be paid to the workers, many of whom are unorganised.

[Translation]

- (v) **Need to increase the amount of scholarship for Harijan/Adivasi students**

SHRI MANKURAM SODI (Bastar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I raise the following matter under Rule 377.

Today, the prices are rising rapidly in the country. It has affected education also which cannot be ignored. The Government has made arrangement for hostels for the Harijan/Adivasi students getting scholarship. This price-rise has directly affected the scholarships given to the Harijan/Adivasi students. The amount fixed does not even meet their one month expenditure. Due to this, many intelligent students drop their

studies. Most of the Harijan and Adivasi families cannot afford the expenditure for providing higher education to their wards and thus their desire to continue studies is not fulfilled.

So, I request the Central Government to increase the amount of scholarship for the Harijan/Adivasi students so that students depending on scholarships only could complete their studies and serve the country as an educated citizen.

[English]

- (vi) **Need to give recognition to poet Vemana by issuing a postal stamp, opening a faculty and publishing authoritative translation of his works**

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY (Kurnool): Vemana was a renowned poet, rationalist, social reformer and a Saint from Rayalaseema region in Andhra Pradesh. His poetry consisted essentially of scientific and rational solutions to social problems and reforms. His poetry in the purest and simplest form is most popular among the people. He opposed religious fanaticism, expose hypocrisy, social oppression of the poor and downtrodden and taught the path of non violence and truth. He enriched the basic humanist outlook of Hindu philosophy. His works were translated in the beginning of 19th century in English by Mr. Bxuan who was enchanted by the great depth of thought expressed in simple language. His verses have also been translated into other languages. But yet there has been no national recognition of this great poet Vemana

I, therefore, appeal to the Union Government to take steps for due recognition of Vemana greatness by issuing a postal stamp and instituting Vemana faculty in the Indira Gandhi Open University and also by publishing authoritative translations of his works in all India languages essentially in Hindi.