

also—will understand the language of the card. I had written to the Minister also but even after a lapse of five months, I have not received any letter from him. This is the *modus operandi* of the functioning of the Government so far as Health Department is concerned. So, may I know what action has been taken or is proposed to be taken by the Ministry so far as these immunisation cards are concerned . . . (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : It is all right now.

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : and also so far as the loss of money which has been involved in the printing of these cards is concerned ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA) : Sir, we have to achieve 'Health for all by 200 A.D.' and accordingly we are working. As far as this card is concerned, the hon. Member had referred this matter to me and he wanted to discuss with me. I shall be very much thankful to him if he spares some time today, tomorrow or on any day. I will discuss with him in about this card which has been printed in unknown language, as he says. . . (*Interruptions*). So, I will be happy if the hon. Member takes the pain to meet me, or I can meet him. That will solve the . . . (*Interruptions*).

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : I seek your protection, Sir. This is the highest forum of the country . . . (*Interruptions*).

SHRI MOTI LAL VORA : I am prepared to meet him at any time. Secondly, this immunisation programme in this country is working very good and as far as Assam and other States are concerned, we have get the figures. So, there is nothing to worry because we are taking all rdequate steps for immunisation and that will be done as per the targets which have been fixed.

MR. SPEAKER : Will you please let me know the result of the parleys on the hybrid variety of language in which the card had been printed ?

SHRI MOTI LAL VORA : This hybrid quality of card has been shown to me three months before.

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : I would request the hon. Minister to enquire into this matter.

SHRI MOTI LAL VORA : We will enquire into this matter.

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has assured the House that the health for all will be met adequately by the end of 2000 A.D. It is also the National Health Policy. In this context, I would like to mention that the Circular which has been issued provides a health guide in the rural areas. His qualification is that he must not be a matriculate. His academic qualification should be less than matriculate and there is no prescription for training or medical or para-medical training for him. I would like to now whether the Minister is satisfied with that Circular and whether that Health Guide will provide adequate medical facilities and medical assistance to the persons living in the villages and whether he is satisfied with the working of those people in the field. I would also like to know whether he is prepared to modify his Circular and provide well-trained/medical and para-medical men to the people in the rural areas.

SHRI MOTI LAL VORA : The Circular which has been mentioned by the hon. Member has been definitely looked into when it was issued. But if there is any modification required, we will definitely look into it.

[*Translation*]

Minimum Wages for Workers in Bauxite Fireclay and Chinaclay Mines

*396. SHRI SHIV PRASAD SAHU : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have finalised the proposal to increase the minimum wages of workers engaged in the bauxite, fireclay and chinaclay mines in view of the constant increase in the cost of living; and

(b) if so, the time by which the necessary increase in the minimum wages will be made ?

[English]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHA KISHAN MALAVIYA) : (a) and (b). The proposal revision in the minimum rates of wages in respect of these employments were published on 1st July, 1988 and a period of two months has been fixed under Section 5 (1) (b) of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. The Advisory Board constituted under Section 7 of the Act is to consider the proposals as well as suggestions/objections received from the public. The Government will take a decision in respect of rates of wages after considering the advice of the Board. The exact time for effecting the revision in the rates cannot be indicated at present.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIV PRASAD SAHU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards the condition of workers employed in bauxite, fireclay and chinaclay mines. The nature of their work is very arduous because bauxite is found at the height of 3,000 or 3,500 ft. A worker has to walk 10 kms to reach there and he has to cover the same distance while coming back. Thus he has to cover a distance of 20 km in to and fro journey. The hon. Minister has personally seen the arduous nature of this work. He is well acquainted with their living condition. In his written reply, it has been stated that the exact time for effecting the revision in the rates cannot be indicated at present. In view of the constant price rise and the fact that these workers are mostly Harijans and Adivasis, I want to know from the hon. Minister about the time by which the rates of wages of workers engaged in fireclay, chinaclay and bauxite mines will be revised. The situation today is such that many of the employers do not even pay them the existing wages. Please let us know as to by when the proposed revision of minimum wages will be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY) : Mr. Speaker Sir, as it has been stated that a proposal is

being formulated and according to the statutory provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, it is essential to give two month's notice for its circulation. The Government will take a decision in this respect immediately after the meeting of the Advisory Board.

[English]

DR. DATTA SAMANT : Sir, out of the total population, about 12 crores are workers and out of them 8 crores are below the poverty line, and they are the workers in all sectors. I do not like to take the time of the House by narrating the details, but even in respect of tea, coffee, and sugarcane, they have the capacity to pay. Sir, my question here is whether the Central Government is going to implement this minimum wage. I know part of it is the State Government's concern also, but there is no will, I am noticing everywhere, to see that it will be strictly implemented. The second thing is that it is linked with the dearness allowance because the Central Government is revising the D.A. for its employees, but for the poor workers there is no linking of D.A. in 70 per cent cases and for 8 or 10 years they are not revising the D.A. in many States or even at the Centre. I would like to know whether the Government is going to take this seriously and see that all the minimum wages in the country are linked with the dearness allowance and it will be strictly implemented.

SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY : So far as the employment which comes under the jurisdiction of the Central Government is concerned, we have now proposed to evolve a system which would link the dearness allowance with the consumer price index number and this is the proposal in relation to these three employments also.

Regarding the States, I am calling a meeting of the State Labour Ministers next month and since there are many employments which are in the jurisdiction of the State Governments, I cannot reply on their behalf. We place this question before them and only on the basis of the consensus action can be taken.