

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1418
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.03.2018**

RURAL WAGES

1418. SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL:

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

- (a) whether rural wages have been reportedly decreasing over the past three years;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government thereto;**
- (c) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard;**
- (d) whether demonetization has significantly improved rural wages; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)**

(a) to (e): No, Madam. As a part of Rural Labour Enquiry (RLE), Labour Bureau has been compiling average daily wage rates for General Agricultural Labourers and Non-Agricultural Labourers on the basis of the information collected by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) from a fixed set of 600 sample villages spread over 20 States.

Annual average daily wage rates for General Agricultural Labourers have increased during the last three years. In 2015 it stood at Rs. 233.84 and increased to Rs. 248.32 in 2016 and Rs. 263.59 in 2017. In the case of Non-Agricultural Labourers, the annual average daily wage rate increased from Rs. 246.82 in 2015 to Rs. 257.95 in 2016 and further to Rs. 270.76 in 2017.

Government has taken several initiatives which inter-alia include fixing and revising minimum wages of workers under the provisions of Minimum Wages Act, 1948 and periodic revision of wage rates for workers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005.
