

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATION AND FARMERS WELFARE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3290
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 1ST JANUARY, 2019

**EXPLOITATION OF LANDLESS LABOURERS AND LAND
OWNERSHIP RIGHTS FOR WOMEN**

3290. SHRI KIRTI AZAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is true that landless farm labourers are at the mercy of big farmers and they are exploited to accept low wages, if so, the steps that have been taken by the Government to institutionalize and rationalize employment and wages of farm labourers on farms, and in villages;
- (b) whether it is true that women workers get far less than men for the same works and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government has any scheme to help women get ownership rights of lands owned by their husbands after their death and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a) to (c): Under the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, both Central and State Governments are appropriate Governments to fix, review and revise the minimum wages of the workers employed in the scheduled employment under their respective jurisdictions. Rates fixed in the Central sphere are applicable to establishments under the authority of Central Government, railway administration, mines, oil-fields, major port or any corporation established by a Central Government. Employment other than the scheduled employment for central Sphere come under the purview of State Government and accordingly State Government wages are applicable in such employments.

Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the enforcement is secured at two levels. While in the Central Sphere the enforcement is secured through the Inspecting officers of the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) commonly designated as Central Industrial Relations Machinery (CIRM), the compliance in the State Sphere is ensured through the State Enforcement Machinery. The designated inspecting officers' conduct regular inspections and in the event of detection of any case of non-payment or underpayment of minimum wages, they direct the employers to make payment of the shortfall of wages. In case of non-compliance, penal provisions prescribed under Section 22 of the said Act are taken recourse to.

Under the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the wages fixed by the appropriate government are equally payable to both male and female workers and the Act does not discriminate on the basis of gender.

The subject relating to Land and its management falls within the jurisdiction of States as per Entry 18 of List II (State List) of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution. The role of the Central Government in the field of land reforms is only of an advisory nature.
