GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 970 TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.12.2024

ENHANCING OF THE MINIMUM WAGE

970. DR. GUMMA THANUJA RANI: SHRI MADDILA GURUMOORTHY: SHRI DURAI VAIKO:

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

- (a)whether the Government plans to implement living wage system in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b)the details of the steps taken by the Government to switch from minimum wage to a living wage by 2025;
- (c)whether the Government has constituted a framework for computing the aforesaid living wage, if so, the details thereof;
- (d)whether the Government plans to ramp up the existing infrastructure for speedy grievance redressal in the cases of labour law violations, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e)the details of steps taken by the Government during the last five years in collaboration with reputed international agencies to bring a fairer minimum wage system in the country, including the steps taken by the Government towards increasing the wages of domestic workers in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SUSHRI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE)

(a) to (e): Provision of minimum wages under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 provides for cost of living allowance as a component of minimum wages. Accordingly, the Central Government revises the cost of living allowance called as Variable Dearness Allowance (V.D.A) on basic rates of minimum wages under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, every six months effective from 1st April and 1st October every year on the basis of Consumer Price Index for Industrial workers to protect the minimum wages against inflation.

The provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, have been rationalized and subsumed under the Code on Wages, 2019. The Code makes minimum wages universally applicable across employments as against restrictive applicability of minimum wages limited to scheduled employments as provided for under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.

For the redressal of workers' grievances, Samadhan Portal was launched on 6th February, 2019 which is an online platform for filing Industrial disputes/ claims/ complaints and grievances by workers/ dependents of workers/ group of workers/ Trade Unions/ employees. In the Union Budget 2024-25, revamping of Samadhan Portal has been announced which includes technological upgradation.

The Government has also launched a unified online portal, Shram Suvidha Portal (SSP), to streamline labour law compliance and grievance redressal. This initiative aims to enhance speed, transparency and accountability in redressal of grievances in labour law enforcement.
