FAQ

RURAL LABOUR ENQUIRY (INCLUDING CONSUMER PRICE INDEX NUMBERS FOR AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL LABOURERS) SCHEME

(A) Consumer Price Index Numbers for Agricultural/Rural Labourers (CPI-AL/RL) on Base:1986-87=100

When was the compilation of CPI-AL started?

The compilation of CPI Numbers for Agricultural Labourers started w.e.f. September, 1964. The existing series of CPI Numbers for Agricultural and Rural Labourers (base 1986-87=100) replaced the same w.e.f. November, 1995.

How the CPI-AL compares with CPI-RL?

While the retail prices utilized in the compilation of CPI-AL and CPI-RL are same, the weights are different due to the difference in coverage of the two series. The coverage of CPI-AL is confined to households of the agricultural labourers whereas the CPI-RL is CPI-AL covers the households of rural labourers which includes agricultural labourers households also.

How the Rural Labour Households and Agricultural Labour Households are have been defined?

i) Rural Labour Households

Rural Labour Households are those households whose income, during the last 365 days, was more from wage paid manual labour (agrucultural and/or non-agricultural) than either from paid non-manual employment or from self- employment.

ii) Agricultural Labour households

The rural labour households, who derive 50 per cent or more of their total income from wage paid manual labour in agricultural activities, are treated as agricultural labour households.

For how many states indices for CPI-AL/RL are compiled and how were they selected?

Indices for CPI-AL/RL are compiled separately for each of the 20 States which were selected on the basis of the proportion of agriculture labour/rural labour in respective states.

How all-India index is compiled?

The all-India index is worked out as a weighted average of the indices of 20 States, weights being the estimated consumption expenditure of all rural and agricultural labour households in each State as a proportion of corresponding expenditure for all-India.

What are the weights assigned to each state?

The weights assigned to each state are as under:-
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Weight AL</th>
<th>Weight RL</th>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Weight AL</th>
<th>Weight RL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>12.97</td>
<td>12.21</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
<td>9.96</td>
<td>9.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Assam</td>
<td>1.69</td>
<td>1.96</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Manipur</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Bihar</td>
<td>11.38</td>
<td>9.81</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Meghalaya</td>
<td>0.13</td>
<td>0.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Gujarat</td>
<td>5.20</td>
<td>5.04</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Orissa</td>
<td>5.07</td>
<td>4.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Haryana</td>
<td>1.81</td>
<td>2.07</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Punjab</td>
<td>3.02</td>
<td>3.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Himachal Pradesh</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>0.19</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Rajasthan</td>
<td>2.14</td>
<td>2.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>J&amp;K</td>
<td>0.26</td>
<td>0.52</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>8.47</td>
<td>9.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Karnataka</td>
<td>6.67</td>
<td>6.27</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Tripura</td>
<td>0.15</td>
<td>0.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Kerala</td>
<td>5.02</td>
<td>6.33</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Uttar Pradesh</td>
<td>9.61</td>
<td>9.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Madhya Pradesh</td>
<td>6.86</td>
<td>6.38</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>West Bengal</td>
<td>9.39</td>
<td>9.17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**What are the linking factors (Group wise) between old and new series?**

The linking factors of different groups pertaining to CPI-AL are as under:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Linking Factor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>General Index</td>
<td>5.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Food</td>
<td>6.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Fuel and Light</td>
<td>1.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Clothing, Bedding, etc.</td>
<td>5.35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**(B) Wage Rates in Rural India**

**When was the collection and compilation of wage rates started?**

The wage rate data are collected since 1986-87, their compilation and publication however were started from April, 1998 on regular basis.

**What wage rates are collected by the Labour Bureau and how the average wage rates are worked out?**

The wage rates collected by the Bureau are the prevailing wage rates in different villages of the respective states and are averaged to arrive at State and All-India level average wage rate. To arrive at the State level average wage rates, the daily wage rate data received from the different villages are first normalized for eight hours working day and then the simple arithmetic average of these normalized daily wage rates is worked out. State-wise averages are however restricted to those occupations where the number of quotations are five or more in order to avoid inconsistency in wages paid to different categories of workers on account of difference in number of quotations.
The average wage rates at all-India level are derived by dividing the sum total of wages of all the 20 states by the number of quotations. At all-India level also, the number of quotations for working out occupation-wise averages are restricted to five or more.

**What are the occupations for which wage rates are compiled?**

The occupations for which the daily wage rate data is collected are as under:

**A. Agricultural Occupations**

1. Ploughing
2. Sowing
3. Weeding
4. Transplanting
5. Harvesting
6. Winnowing
7. Threshing
8. Picking
9. Herdsman
10. Well Digging
11. Cane Crushing

**B. Non-agricultural Occupations**

1. Carpenter
2. Blacksmith
3. Cobbler
4. Mason
5. Tractor Driver
6. Sweeper
7. Unskilled Labour (un-specified)

(C) **Rural Labour Enquiry Reports**

**What are the reports being compiled and published by the Labour Bureau based on Rural Labour Enquiry?**

The following five analytical reports are compiled and published by the Labour Bureau on quinquennial basis:

i) Employment and Unemployment of the Rural Labour Households;

ii) Wages and Earnings of the Rural Labour Households;

iii) Indebtedness among the Rural Labour Households;

iv) General Characteristics of the Rural Labour Households; and

v) Consumption Expenditure of the Rural Labour Households.