

## Panel set to fix minimum wages

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NEW DELHI: The committee to decide on minimum wages, set up by former lieutenant governor Najeeb Jung, is almost ready with its proposal and the Delhi government expects that it will be able to send the file for clearance to LG Anil Baijal within 10 days.

The original proposal was returned by Jung in September 2016, during the height of the Centre-state tussle, saying that the committee that came up with the proposed changes was itself unconstitutional as it was formed without his prior consent.

On Thursday, labour minister Gopal Rai said that they had hoped that the LG would grant post facto sanction to this committee, as he did with some other committees, but that Jung insisted on reappointing the committee.

"We had appointed the first committee in April last year and after several rounds of meetings, the proposal was cleared by the cabinet and sent to the LG on August 24. However, he returned the file, raising objection to the formation of the committee," said Rai.

"The committee was set up again and we held the final meeting on Wednesday. The report will be submitted to the government within 10 days and we expect to have it cleared by the cabinet and sent to the LG for final approval. We are hoping that this time we will not face pointless hurdles in implementing the wages, like last time," he added.

Rai said that the new committee had used the same formula to arrive at the new wages.