

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJAI AH) : (a) In the World Labour Report 2 released by the International Labour Office, Geneva, there is an observation that 'some in-depth studies show rates of fatal accidents are several times higher in the developing countries than in the industrialised countries'. This is a general analysis, based on a limited data in respect of few countries. However, in so far as the rate of accidents in the country is concerned, the number of reportable accidents in 1983 was 3,49,254 as compared to 3,46,443 in the year 1982 registering a marginal increase of 0.8%.

(b) Government reviews the provisions of the Factories Act and the regulations from time to time, so as to make them in conformity with the ILO Conventions and Recommendations and the State Governments are advised to adopt appropriate changes in the State Factory Rules.

Strike by the Employees of 'National Herald' and 'Quami Awaz'

417. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the employees of National Herald and Quami Awaz, published by Associated Journal Ltd., Delhi are on strike, demanding arrears of wages and bonus ;

(b) if so, the steps taken to settle their demands ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJAI AH) : (a) Yes Sir. As reported by the Delhi Administration, the workmen of M/s National Herald and Quami Awaz went on strike with effect from 10.1.1985 demanding payment of bonus for the year 1983-84.

(b) Immediately on receipt of information, the parties were called by the Labour Department, Delhi Administration and discussions were held a number of times to settle the issue amicably. A settlement was proposed by the Labour Commissioner on

22.2.85 asking the management to pay the wages and other dues to workers immediately. This was accepted by both the parties and the strike was called off. Delhi administration has further reported that the management has already paid wages and bonus due for the year 1983-84 to the workers. The management has also assured that no worker would be victimised on account of the strike.

Decline in Price of Coconut in Kerala

418. SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the continuous decline in the raw coconut and copra prices during the last 3 months in Kerala markets ;

(b) Whether Government of Kerala has sought any remedial steps ; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken to stabilise the prices ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The recent decline in prices of raw coconut and copra has occurred from very high level of prices prevailing during the last over two years. Prices of coconut and copra during 1982-84 had ruled very high because of fall in production due to drought and disease incidence. The latest prices are still higher than those prevailing in 1981-82.

Extension of T.V. during 1985-86

419. SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the programme to be undertaken for extending T.V. during 1985-86 and the number of stations which are proposed to have independent transmission ;