

Number of Closed Textile Mills in the Country

3789. SHRIMATI PRAMILA DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) how many textile mills are closed in India due to the strike of the workers;

(b) what is the effect of the strike on the production of the cloth;

(c) whether it is a fact that textile workers continued to remain on strike in spite of the call given by R.M.M.S., the recognised, union in Bombay to resume the work; and

(d) if so, will the Government direct the State Government to amend Industrial Relations Act so as to give recognition to the union by secret ballot?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI DHARMAVIR): (a) According to the information received from the Ministry of Commerce, at the end of January 1982, 66 textile mills in the country were closed due to strike.

(b) Complete information with regard to the effect of the strike on the production of cloth is not available. However, according to the Government of Maharashtra, the estimated loss in production in 60 textile mills in Bombay which were strike-bound was estimated at Rs. 4 crores per day.

(c) Following the call given by the recognised union and the Bombay Mill Owners Association about 28 textile Mills have re-opened until 15th March 1982 and workers and staff of the mills have started reporting for work.

(d) The Maharashtra Recognition of Trade Union and Prevention of Unfair Labour Practices Act, 1971 does not provide for recognition of unions through secret ballot.

Business Given to a Private Firm by Rourkela Steel Plant

3790. SHRI R. P. SARANGI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a private firm M/s. Ispat Loha Udyog of no commercial standing were given business worth about Rs. 38 lakhs between August 1975 to May 1976 by Rourkela Steel Plant;

(b) whether the firm at (a) above was blacklisted for three years in June, 1976 by Rourkela Steel Plant;

(c) whether it is also a fact that within six months of expiry of the black listing period, the above firm was registered by Rourkela Steel Plant as their approved steel trader; and

(d) if so, reasons therefor?

The MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA): (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Welfare of Indian Workers Abroad

3791. SHRI RAJESH PILOT:
SHRI GHULAM MOHD.
KHAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state what steps have Government taken to ensure Welfare of the Indian workers abroad who are recruited and employed by private firms and agencies in terms of:—

(i) their working conditions contracts;

(ii) their living conditions in western Countries;

(iii) enforcement of the terms of contract specially about remittance of wages to India;

(iv) just and proper treatment by employees; and

(v) arrangements to settle the disputes between these helpless workers and their established employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD): (i) Contracts laying down the working conditions of emigrant workers are filed with the Protector of Emigrants as a pre-condition to the issue of emigration clearance. Any violation of the contract when brought to the notice of the Government is dealt with, by withholding further clearance to the erring parties, namely, the Recruiting Agent and its foreign principal and by taking up the matter with the foreign Government through our Missions abroad.

(ii) Provision of certain basic amenities is incorporated as a term in the contract signed between the employee and employer and non-provision of these amenities is reckoned as a violation of the contract. In addition, steps have been taken to educate prospective emigrants about prevalent living conditions in the country of employment so as to bridge the gap between expectation and reality.

(iii) In so far as the remittance of wages to India is concerned, the matter is governed by the local law of the country of employment and this also is incorporated as a condition in the contract.

(iv) Any term of the contract which is not conducive to just and proper treatment of the employees is not accepted at the stage of its filing with the Protector of Emigrants and any instance of unjust and improper treatment of the employees, in deviation from the established contract, is taken note of by the Missions abroad with a view to ensuring just and proper treatment.

(v) Disputes between the workers and their employers are settled, whenever such instances are reported, through the good offices of our Missions abroad.

With a view to protecting and furthering the interests of emigrant workers, particularly in countries where there is large concentration of Indian workers, specified officers of the Indian Missions

in those countries have been designated as functionaries responsible to ensure implementation of these matters.

ESI Medical Facilities

3792. SHRI A. K. BALAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) how many employees are getting the benefit of E.S.I. medical facilities; and

(b) how many employees are registered under that scheme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI DHARMAVIR): (a) and (b) 63,78,550 employees are registered under the Employees' State Insurance Scheme and all of them are getting full medical care i.e. all facilities including hospitalisation.

National Development Council Programme and Priority of Sixth Plan

3793. SHRI CHANDRABHAN ATHARE PATIL: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Development Council has recently re-examined the programmes and priorities of the Sixth Plan with a view to ensure achievement of an annual growth rate of 5.2 per cent;

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposals considered and decision arrived at by N.D.C.;

(c) whether Government considered the modifications needed in the inter sectoral priorities and in the allocation of funds; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) and (b). No, Sir. The National Development Council reviewed *inter alia* the progress in the implementation of the Sixth Plan in the first two years of the Plan and expressed satisfaction at the overall performance.