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Title: Nation-wide strike by industrial workers in the country.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (MIDNAPORE): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to your notice, to the notice of this august House, and through you, to the notice of the Government a very important matter. Already the matter has been raised by Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

As per the information gathered, more than ten lakh workers have joined the *satyagraha* movement and courted arrest across the country. In all the State headquarters and in other places, these demonstrations and courting arrest programmes are going on. Almost all the central trade unions, like the AITUC, CITU, INTUC, BMS, HMS, UTUC, AICCTU, TUCC, and local trade unions, have joined this movement. This struggle which is going on today across the country may be attributed to the total united struggle of the trade unions. But the Government is reluctant to address this issue. The Prime Minister's reply today did not even touch upon such an important issue of the workers.

Sir, what are the main issues? The main issues are:

1. Price hike should be controlled,
2. Labour laws should be implemented fully and not partially,
3. Stop disinvestment in profit-making PSUs,
4. Protection of workers from job losses in the name of economic crisis.

Sir, only in the textile sector, now more than seven lakh workers have been thrown out of the jobs. If we gather the information from different sectors, there are not less than 50 lakh workers who have been thrown out of the jobs.

The next important thing is the creation of Unorganized Workers Social Security Fund. In this context, I want to say a very important thing. There are more than 50 per cent of the workers who are engaged in the contract works and who have been getting very low salaries, which is even less than Rs. 2,000/- per month. It is not a very meagre number, but it is a very huge number. There are lakhs and lakhs of workers who are engaged in the contract works. They are suffering a lot. So, I think, the Government should not sit idle.

So, I would urge upon the Government to stand to the occasion and to consider all these points of the workers. Otherwise, today's united struggle would lead to a bigger struggle of our country. We are likely going to call the *Bharat Bandh* in this matter.

Sir, this is a very important issue. I am bringing this matter to your notice and to the Government's notice.