

(a) whether the workers of Jute Industry including all Public Sector Jute Mills are on strike from January 28, 1992 in support of their demands;

(b) if so, details thereof and the total loss suffered by the industry during the strike period;

(c) whether any bilateral talks were held between the trade unions and the management to avert strike;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the specific demands on which both sides did not agree; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to avert strike and also to meet the demands of the workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) and (b). The workers of the Jute Industry including public sector jute mills in West Bengal have struck work from 28th January, 1992 following a call for general strike given by certain Trade Unions in support of their Charter of Demands. The main points of the Charter of Demands are (i) Hike in wages, (ii) Increase in the rate of neutralisation of Variable Dearness Allowance, (iii) Increase in HRA, Bonus, Gratuity (iv) Introduction of Medical leave, Medical Allowance, Leave Travel Allowance facilities, (v) Implementation of Jute Packaging Materials Act, (vi) Nationalisation of Jute Industry etc. It is estimate a loss of about Rs. 6 crores per day is being suffered by the jute industry on account of the strike.

(c) to (f). Several rounds of tripartite and bipartite meetings were held between the representatives of the federation of unions and the management under the auspices of the labour department of the Government of West Bengal. A bipartite agreement was

arrived at between the management and the workers of Delta Jute Mill which reopened on 12th February, 1992.

The Unions are not prepared to consider the stand of the management that wage increase should be linked to productivity.

The Government of West Bengal, the appropriate Government under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, has initiated action to bring about a settlement to the strike. The Central Government has also appealed to the Chief Minister of West Bengal for his intervention.

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STATEMENT CORRECTING ANSWER  
TO UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 976  
DATED 27/11/1991 REGARDING IMPROVEMENT OF JJ CLUSTERS

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): In reply to Parts (a) and (b) of the question, cited as subject, in line 7 for the words-

"EIUS Scheme"

It may be read as under:-

"ELJ Scheme".

This mistake has occurred due to typographical error. The inconvenience caused to the Sabha is regretted.

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12.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE  
(Bolpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Prime Minister