

Policy announced in July, 1991 declares that Government will fully protect the interests of the labour in the context of technological change. The finance Minister's speech presenting the Budget for 1991-92 announced that Government will establish a National Renewal Fund whose objective would be to provide ameliorative measures for workers affected in the course of technical change and to equip them to be in a position to remain active productive partners in the process of modernisation.

### ESI Scheme

\*299. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has submitted a proposal for extending ESI coverage to workers in pay range of Rs. 1600/- to Rs. 3000/- per month;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIP.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b). Yes Sir. The ESI Corporation has recommended:

(i) the enhancement of wage ceiling for coverage of employees under ESI Scheme from the present level of Rs. 1600/P.M. to Rs. 3000/-P.M., and

(ii) reduction of the contribution of employers from 5% to 4% and of employees from 2.25% to 1.5%.

(c) A Preliminary notification for effecting amendment in the ESI (Central) Rules, 1950 incorporating the above proposal of ESIC has been issued.

[Translation]

### Strikes and Lockouts

\*300. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of strikes and lockouts in industrial units during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the number of man-days lost during the period and the estimated financial loss suffered;

(c) the main causes behind such strikes and lockouts; and

(d) the remedial measures being taken/proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIP.A. SANGMA):

(a) The number of strikes and lockouts Statewise during the last three years i.e. 1988, 1989 and 1990 and for the period January to September, 1991, is given at Statement 'A'

(b) The number of mandays lost during the period and the estimated financial loss is at Statement 'B'

(c) The main causes behind such strikes and lockouts is at Statement 'C'

(d) The Government have been maintaining a close and continuous watch on the Industrial Relations Situation in the country. The Industrial Relations Machinery both at the Centre and in the State are taking steps to resolve disputes and reduce work stoppages through mediation, conciliation and arbitration.