

(b) if so, the main demands of the employees and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether four major Unions of bankmen have also decided to go on strike from December 19, 1995 to press for their demands; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or proposed to be taken to prevent such breakdown of banking service in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) and (b) . A large number of employees in the banking industry struck work on 26th & 27th September, 1995 in support of their demands. They were demanding, inter-alia, reconstruction of pay scales for clerical staff and sub staff consequent on the understanding reached between the Indian banks' Association and the Officers Associations.

(c) and (d) . There are reports to the effect that the workmen unions have withdrawn their proposed strike from 19th December, 1995 consequent upon a Memorandum of Understanding reached between the concerned parties on 27.11.1995.

Production of Silk

961. SHRIMATI MAHENDRA KUMARI :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a wide scope for increasing production of silk in the country by utilising biotechnological methods;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) . Bio-technological methods are already being utilised for improving the quality of mulberry leaf which is essential for production of quality silk. Such improvement is being carried out by adopting bio-technological development and selection of disease resistant varieties, transferring of genes & delimiting undesired ones. Similarly, improvement of silkworm species are being evolved through genetic transfer and genetic manipulation for higher silk production. For enriching the soil with greater nutrient, the use of desirable bacteria and fungi

through mass production & use of biofertilizer has been done.

(c) A Seri Bio-tech Research Laboratory has been established by the Central Silk Board at Bangalore, the Board has implemented 11 Mulberry/Tasar Research Projects in collaboration with the Department of Bio-Technology. Further, financial assistance has been provided to various Universities to undertake Bio-technology related research projects. Besides, efforts are being made to identify new and gap areas in Bio-Technology of silkworms and host plants.

Child Labour

962. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO :

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :

SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL :

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

SHRI PARAS RAM BHARDWAJ :

SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have convened a national level meeting in New Delhi on 13-14 September, 1995 to finalise the strategy to eradicate child labour from the country;

(b) if so, the main decisions arrived at;

(c) whether any concrete steps have been worked out in the meeting in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main recommendations made in the Workshop included *inter-alia*, the following:

(i) Need to ensure a convergence of programmes of Central and State Governments in child labour endemic districts in order to tackle the child labour problem effectively;

(ii) Strengthening of laws like the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act. 1986 and train and equip enforcement personnel to effectively enforces laws protective of children.

(iii) Achieving effectiveness of child labour projects by strictly monitoring and evaluating them.

(iv) Adoption of effective educational strategies for the education and vocational training of children withdrawn for work.

(v) Carrying out of a sustained media/awareness campaign to sensitize people against child labour.

(c) and (d). The workshop resulted in the sanctioning of 63 National Child Labour Projects with an annual expenditure of Rs. 40.50 crores benefiting a total of 1.20 lakh children in child labour endemic districts. This is in addition to 16,000 children already covered under the National Child Labour Projects. A massive awareness generation campaign has been launched at the central level through major national and regional dailies. Films and sopts have also been prepared for awareness generation campaign in electronic media for the purpose. Further, a total grant of Rs. 6.65 crores has been released for awareness generation activities at the district level to 133 districts. In line with the Workshop's recommendations. 123 districts have also been

sanctioned funds to carry out surveys to identify child labour in hazardous occupations. The total amount released for this purpose is Rs. 2.46 crores.

[Translation]

EPF Defaulters

963. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state

(a) the details of the top twenty five industrial and business houses of Bihar against whom the amount of provident fund is outstanding; and

(b) the steps being taken to recover these amounts?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) A Statement is Attached.

(b) Necessary legal and penal action as provided under the Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 is already being take to recover the dues outstanding against the defaulting establishments.

STATEMENT

Particulars of top 25 Industrial business houses in Bihar.

S. No.	Name of the establishment
1	2
1.	M/s. Naseruddin Beedi Merchant (Pvt.)Ltd. Biharsharif, Nalanda (BR/1265).
2.	M/s. Sayood Ferozuddin, Biharsharif, Nalanda (BR/3241)
3.	M/s. Lengia Beedi Company, Biharsharif, Nalanda. (BR/2846).
4.	M/s. Kachwar Lime and Stone Company, Banjari, (BR/319)
5.	M/s. High Tension Insulation Factory, Nankan, Ranchi, (BR/1295)
6.	M/s. Realiance Fire Bricks and Pottery Works Co. Ltd. (BR/232)
7.	M/s. Kumardhobi Enginerring Works now know as M/s. Kumardhobi Metal Casting & Engg. Ltd. (BR/06)
8.	Eastern Manganese & Mineral Presently known as B.S.M.D.D.C. Ashok Nagar, Ranali, (BR/446)
9.	M/s. Electric Equipment Factory, Ranali Hazaribagh, (BR/4295)