

technical problems in adaptability of second-hand paper machines installed by small paper mills to unconventional raw materials etc. Various reliefs and concessions have been extended to the industry in the recent past to enable it to increase its production and improve its economic viability. As a result of the various measures taken by Government in the recent past, the installed capacity of the industry has increased from 16.56 lakh tonnes as on 1.1.81 to 26.55 lakh tonnes as on 1.1.86, and, production from 11.12 lakh tonnes, in 1980 to 15 lakh tonnes (estimated) in 1985. A committee has also been appointed under the chairmanship of Secretary (Industrial Development) to look into the financial aspects affecting the paper industry and to suggest suitable measures for the long term growth of the industry.

Token strike by workers in Coal Industry

9093. SHRI K.V. SHANKARA-GOWDA :

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN :

PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that 7 lakh workers in the Coal Industry had gone on token strike on 9.4.86 ;

(b) if so, what were the main reasons for their strike ;

(c) the total loss of production suffered due to this token strike ;

(d) whether Government have accepted almost all the demands of the coal workers ; and

(e) if so, what are the other demands that have not been agreed upon by the Union Government so far ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) An estimated 4.70 lakh workers in the coal industry went on strike on 9.4.1986. This figure, however, does not include normal absenteeism and workers present on maintenance of essential services.

(b) The strike was organised in support of a 11-point charter of demands. These are mentioned in statement below.

(c) The total production loss might be as high as 4.50 lakh tonnes.

(d) and (e). The demands, the extent of their implementation and/or comments thereon are indicated in the Annexure.

STATEMENT

DEMANDS MENTIONED IN THE CALL FOR THE STRIKE ON THE 9TH OF APRIL, 1986 BY FOUR CENTRAL TRADE UNIONS AND COMMENTS THEREON

1. Immediately restore the commitments unilaterally withdrawn by the managements such as providing jobs to dependents of employees die in harness and disabled permanently etc.

Comments : Position has since been clarified to all coal companies and clause 9.4.2 is being acted upon.

2. Implement the non-implemented welfare measures such as housing facilities, provision for drinking water, educational facilities, medical benefits and safety measures as per NCWA-III.

Comments : The implementation of welfare measures is a continuous process and all efforts are being made to implement the terms of the Agreement in this regard.

3. Ensure employment to dependent of retiring employees as per NCWA-III.

Comments : This provision has been found to be unconstitutional and is not being acted upon even in the steel sector.

4. Immediate formulation of pension scheme for coal miners.

Comments : The Social Security Scheme is being discussed by the Joint Committee of JBCCI and unless the scheme is prepared and accepted there is no way by which it could be implemented. The Social Security Scheme Committee of JBCCI-III met on 18th Feb. 86 and has discussed the draft scheme submitted by the actuary. Union representatives have agreed to send their comments in writing for further processing.

5. Finalise the uniform Standing Orders for the entire Coal Industry.

Comments : Standing Order Committee of the JBCCI has already formulated its recommendations and the further course of action is under process.

6. Increase ceiling of gratuity payment from Rs. 36,000/- to Rs. 50,000/- as per Central Government's decision.

Comments : Ceiling for those not covered by Payment of Gratuity Act, has already been raised to Rs. 50,000/-. The question of similarly raising the ceiling for those covered by the Payment of Gratuity Act is under consideration.

7. Remove ceiling on bonus payment to coal workers.

Comments : Ceiling has already been raised from Rs. 1600/- to Rs. 2500/- and payments have been made. Removal of ceiling is a matter of general policy of the Government. No peculiar decision can be taken in respect of Coal Industry.

8. Abolish contract system for jobs of permanent and perennial nature.

Comments : All major operations in the coal industry are being done departmentally and there is a phased programme to departmentalise other jobs. The pace has, however, to be adjusted so that earlier operations already departmentalised are properly consolidated and put on sound foundation.

9. Finalise promotion policy providing for time bound promotion to all workers.

Comments : The concept of time bound promotions is a new one and it would not be in the fitness of things to use this issue as a point for launching agitation as the implications have to be discussed in detail and the wider ramifications understood.

10. Withdraw all penal action against coal workers such as arbitrary deduction of 8 days wages, loss of lien and break in service.

Comments : There is no arbitrary deduction as mentioned. Action is only taken in case where provision of Section 9 (2) of the Payment of Wages Act becomes applicable.

11. Immediate finalisation of incentive scheme for coal miners.

Comments : This has to be done jointly.

Pollution in Macherla Village of Guntur District in Andhra Pradesh by Ramakrishna Cement Factory

9994. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the environment in Macherla village of Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh is being polluted due to the failure of the management of Ramakrishna Cement Factory to instal two electro-static precipitators as suggested by the State Government;

(b) whether it is a fact that even the one E.S.P. installed is not functioning regularly due to which the residents of Macherla are suffering health hazards ;

(c) if so, the action taken against the management which failed to instal required number of anti-pollution equipment in the factory ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). The cement plant of M/s. KCP Ltd. (Ramakrishna Cement Factory) at Macherla which had commenced production in 1958, has installed various dust arresting equipments as per the norms specified by the State Pollution Control Board.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.