

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.