

a view to raise the quality of goods produced by small scale industries during the Eighth Plan period; and

(b) if so, the place where these centres are proposed to be opened at the initial stage and the facilities to be provided through these centres to small entrepreneurs ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) propose to set up by the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan a laboratory each in all those States where it has presently a Branch Office. The laboratories of the BIS are primarily meant for testing of samples of the BIS's licencees with a view to ensuring that the quality of products is upto the prescribed level irrespective of the fact whether the licencee is in large scale sector or small scale sector.

(b) BIS propose to establish testing laboratories during the Eighth Plan at Lucknow, Bhopal, Hyderabad, Jaipur and Trivandrum besides strengthening testing facilities at Guwahati and Bombay. The facilities extended by the BIS towards upgradation of quality of products of small scale industrial units are to:

- (a) provide assistance in the establishment of laboratories by providing information on the set up needed, equipment to be procured, sources of availability of equipment, etc.
- (b) provide training to their quality control personnel in methods and techniques of testing, and
- (c) undertake testing for special requirements.

[English]

Payment of Wages to Workers of Rohtas Industries

5541. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the management of the Rohtas Industries Limited, Dalmianagar (Bihar) have not paid arrears of salaries

and wages to their workers who had been out of jobs for about four years due to closure by the management; and

(b) if so, the action Government propose to take to afford necessary relief to such employees ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) The Supreme Court by its order dated 27.4.1987, directed the Official Liquidator appointed by the High Court to dispose of the stocks lying with the Company and pay the arrears of wages for the period May, 1984 to 8.7.1984 out of the sale proceeds. The Official Liquidator is taking further steps to comply with orders of the Supreme Court.

[Translation]

Accidents in Coal Mines

5542. SHRI ASHKARAN SANKHAWAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the details of accidents in various coal mines in the country during the last three years, year-wise as on 31 January, 1988;

(b) the causes of the accidents;

(c) the number of persons killed in the accidents;

(d) the amount of compensation paid; and

(e) the number of cases in which safety rules were violated and the penal action taken by Government against the persons found responsible therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (d) The details of accidents which occurred in various coal mines in the country during the last three years as on 31st January, 1988 and the number of persons killed in these accidents is given in the table below :

Year	Accidents		No. of persons killed
	Fatal	Serious	
1985	176	1007	204
1986	180	1167	214
1987*	163	890	177
1988*	17	63	17

(Upto 31.1.1988)

*Provisional

These accidents were caused due to reasons such as fall of roof, fall of side fall persons, fall of objects, ground movements, rope haulage, transportation machinery, explosives, electricity etc. Compensation is paid under the Workmen's Compensation

Act, 1923 which is administered by the State Governments and Union Territories. Information in this regard is not maintained.

(e) The required information is given below :

Year	Total No. of accident cases in which safety rules were violated	Action taken by DGMS against persons found responsible		
		Warning	Certificate suspension	Number of persons prosecuted
1985	137	123	8	35
1986	145	79	12	28
1987*	137	47	10	3
1988*	16	—	—	—

*Provisional.

[English]

Scarcity Conditions in Tribal Areas

5543 SHRI BHADRILSWAR TANTI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether scarcity conditions prevail in many tribal areas of the country ;

(b) whether these areas have been declared as drought hit areas ; and

(c) the steps taken by Union Government to mitigate the sufferings of the tribal people ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) and (b) Identification of areas affected by drought is done by the respective State Governments on certain established norms. Among the districts identified by various State Governments as drought affected during 1987, there are tribal areas also.

(c) Central Government has extended assistance for various items under drought relief. These include agriculture inputs subsidy, employment generation programmes, supply of drinking water, special nutrition programmes etc.

The execution of relief operations is primarily the responsibility of the State