

technology and management to small scale and cottage industries sectors.

The programme of gradual widening of the scope of public ownership is constantly under review of the Government with a view to identifying fields which could be developed under public ownership.

**Steps taken to resolve Jute Mill Strike**

316. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN:

SHRI BHAGAT RAM:

SHRI ARJUN SINGH  
BHADORIA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government took to resolve the Jute Mill strike held recently in West Bengal in which eleven trade unions participated;

(b) the main demands of striking Jute Mill workers and details thereof; and

(c) the total loss the Industry has incurred due to this strike and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (c). The jute mill workers in West Bengal are on strike with effect from January 5, 1979 in support of their 10 point charter of demands. The main demands are for nationalisation of jute industry without compensation, wage revision, payment of bonus, withdrawal of repressive measures adopted by employers during emergency, reinstatement of retrenched, dismissed and victimised workers, reopening of closed jute mills, work hour norms, implementation of Rajanath Reddy Award, payment of gratuity at enhanced rate etc.

Government of West Bengal are the appropriate Government under the

Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 and the State Government are already seized of the matter. Discussions are being held at the State Minister's level to promote a reasonable settlement and to secure end of the strike soon. Central Government have been keeping a close watch. Chief Minister and Labour Minister of West Bengal have also been addressed in this regard. Labour Minister has offered his good offices if the State Governments desire any help.

As a result of strike, jute industry in West Bengal is suffering a production loss of about 3,000 tonnes worth Rs. 1.65 crores daily.

**Formula for Central Assistance to States**

317. SHRI ISHWAR CHAUDHRY:  
Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chief Minister of Bihar has demanded special meeting of the National Development Council to thrash out an acceptable formula for Central Assistance to States to be incorporated in the Sixth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether he has also stressed that unless it is done our plan will remain an annual plan and the Sixth plan objective will not be fulfilled; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI FAZLUR RAHMAN): (a) to (c). A letter has been received from the Chief Minister of Bihar in which he has, *inter alia*, requested that an early meeting of the National Development Council be convened. The next meeting of the National Development Council is scheduled to be held on February, 24-25, 1979.