

(c) what steps have been taken for the settlement of the demands of public sector employees and workers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAISENGH SISODIA) : (a) and (b). Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to the letter addressed by the Central Committee Members of six trade unions. A copy of the letter is annexed.

(c) The demands of the workers were discussed in various forums. Certain offers have been made to the workers. The Managements have appealed to the workers to accept these offers and resume work.

*Copy of the letter dated 30-1-1981 addressed to Smt. Indira Gandhi, PM by the Central Committee Members of six major trade unions*

As you are well aware, unions belonging to six Central Trade Union organisations viz. CITU, HMS, AITUC, INTUG, UTUC and MBS are observing today, the 30th January, 1981 as the day of solidarity with the 125000 workers of the Bangalore based public sector industries who are now on strike for over five weeks.

We, workers and members of these Central Organisations, sitting in a Dharna today outside your residence, wish your personal intervention in the settlement of the strike.

The strike in these undertakings is total and peaceful despite repression let loose against the striking workers by the Government of Karnataka in which three workers were even shot dead in Police firing.

We are shocked at the callous attitude being taken by the Government of India towards the totally justified demand of the striking workers, viz. that the Government should fulfil its commitments and implement the agreements signed by it in 1978. We cannot for a moment understand either the reprehensible approach of the Government towards its own agreement or the repression let loose by it on the striking workers.

If anyone is to be held entirely responsible for the strike, it is non other than the managements of these public sector undertakings, who are directly responsible to the Government of India.

We are convinced that this attitude of the Government is leading to a position of a deliberate and conscious sabotage

of the public sector, and that is why we are approaching you for your personal intervention.

We hope, that as Prime Minister of the country; you will take immediate steps to force the management of these undertakings to concede the demand of the workers by fulfilling the commitments, and thus help to avoid a situation where the entire working class of India may get pitched on this question against the Government's attitude and in support of the striking workers.

We need not reiterate that today's Dharna is only a token Dharna to seek your intervention.

#### Licence Issued to Steel Plants by DGTD

1645. SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of steel units like wire drawing units and others which have been licensed by the DGTD so far; with their productive capacity for different steel items;

(b) the number of such units lying closed for want of adequate supply of raw materials like the wire-rods etc. ; and

(c) the steps taken by the DGTD to ensure supply of such basic raw materials to the units licenced by it ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) DGDT is under the Ministry of Industry. Presumably, information is being sought regarding wire-drawing units in the organised sector. 71 wire-drawing units have been licenced in the organised sector with an annual licensed capacity of 755.79 thousand tonnes. Out of these, two units with a capacity of 610 tonnes per year have yet to be commissioned.

(b) No unit is reported to be lying closed for want of wire rods only.

(c) Import of wire rods is being allowed to the wire drawing units against their import application, on merit.