

(b) the extent to which the difference in cost of labour in rural areas, if any exists; and the industrial growth in rural areas, with special reference to production and employment ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) :** (a) According to the Annual Survey of Industries, the average cost of labour per man day worked for all industries for the year 1977-78 was Rs. 25.70. Separate figures for urban and rural areas are not being worked out.

(b) The village and the small industries sector consisting broadly of traditional industries (handlooms, khadi and village industries, sericulture, handicrafts and coir); and modern small scale industries including 'tiny' units and powerloom sectors are pre-dominant in the rural areas. According to the Sixth Five Year Plan document, the average employment in the village small industries sector increased from 176.36 lakhs in 1973-74 to 233.44 lakhs in 1979-80; the value of output increased from Rs. 136.00 crores to Rs. 30935 crores during the same period.

#### **Opening of a Hospital for Bidi Labours at Biharsharif**

2430. **SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV :** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that about fifteen thousand Bidi Workers are at Biharsharif, the Distt. Headquarter of Nalanda Distt. in the State of Bihar;

(b) whether it is a fact that the workers suffer a number of diseases having no financial status to get proper treatment; and

(c) if so, whether Government have a suitable plan to open at least a ten bedded Hospital from Bidi

Labourers Welfare Fund for them if so, the details thereon ?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. VENKATA REDDY) :**  
(a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) A mobile medical unit has been established there. The question of setting up a hospital at Bihar Sharief for Bedi Workers is also under examination.

#### **Quality and purity of Salt**

2431. **SHRI GHULAM MOHAMMAD KHAN :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the quality and purity of salt in our country is set up to the requisite standard;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is a large amount of wastage in salt production; and

(c) the steps Government proposes to take to develop vast potential available for production of salt improvement in salt technology and bring the quality to international level ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA) :** (a) The quality and purity of salt produced in the country, by and large, conforms to standards prescribed.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Government have already taken steps to increase salt production by bringing more saline areas under salt manufacture. Improvements in technology are being constantly encouraged to increase the yield and improve the quality of salt.