

dations of an expert body like the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP). While recommending prices, the BICP normally goes by the guidelines for price fixation prescribed by the Government. By very nature of things, there may not be a close correspondence in respect of the methodology for price fixation for agricultural and industrial products.

Atrocities On Harijans

5986. SHRI DAYARAM SHAKYA : Will the Minister of HOME Affairs be pleased to state :

(a) what steps have been taken by Government for checking atrocities on Harijans;

(b) how many persons were killed in the years 1981 and 1982 in such incidents;

(c) what was the amount of compensation paid to the dependents of the dead; and

(d) what steps have been taken to rehabilitate the dependents of the deceased ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : (a) The Government of India have conveyed to the states comprehensive guidelines covering precautionary preventive, punitive, rehabilitative and personnel policy measures with a view to checking atrocities on scheduled castes. Close and continuous touch is maintained with the State Governments for the implementation of these guidelines.

(b) On the basis of the information furnished by the State Governments, 493 cases of murder of scheduled Castes were reported in 1981. The number of cases of murder reported in 1982, to the extent available, is 512.

(c) and (d) The information regarding amount of compensation paid to the dependents in each of the cases is not

maintained. However, most of the State Governments have already a standing scheme for providing compensation/relief to the Scheduled Caste victims of crimes and or the members of their families.

Incidence of Industrial Sickness

5987. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been increase in the incidence of sickness in industrial units;

(b) if so, incidence of sickness in 1979, 1980, 1981, and 1982;

(c) the reasons therefor ; and

(d) the steps taken to reduce them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH) : (a) and (b) Data on sick units assisted by banks are being collected by the Reserve Bank of India as per the definition of sickness adopted by it. According to the date furnished by the RBI, the number of sick industrial units at the end of the years 1980 and 1981 were as follows:

Year	Number of sick industrial units
1979	22,366
1980	24,550
1981 (Prov.)	26,758

Data of industrial units are not yet available for the year 1982.

(c) A number of causes, both internal and external, of ten operating in combination, are responsible for industrial sickness. Some of the principal causes of industrial sickness are management deficiencies, inefficient financial control, diversion of resources, inadequate attention to R&D, obsolescence of technology and machinery, poor industrial relations, inadequacy of demand, shortage of raw