

strike-free period in view the present prevailing conditions ?

**THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) :** (a) According to the available information, the number of man-days lost due to strikes and lockouts during 1970 in establishments employing 1,000 or more persons was 13.56 million.

(b) The number of man-days lost due to strikes and lock-outs during January to August 1971 was 7.36 million (provisional) as compared to 10.58 million man-days lost in the corresponding period of 1970.

(c) and (d) The Industrial Relations Machinery at the Centre and in the States continue to make efforts in their respective spheres to minimise work-stoppages through informal mediation conciliation and adjudication or arbitration as necessary, under the existing statutory machinery and voluntary arrangements. During 1970 the officers of the Central Industrial Relations Machinery (CIRM) were able to avert one lock-out and 401 out of the 440 threatened strikes. 184 strikes were also called off during 1970 following intervention by the officers of the Central Industrial Relations Machinery. The Central Industrial Relations Machinery has also been lending its good offices, where appropriate, in promoting bi-partite settlements. A recent case in point is the bi-partite settlement in the steel industry promoted by an officer of the Central Industrial Relations Machinery deputed for the purpose. Government have also been holding discussions with the interests concerned, including Worker's and Employers' Organisations, to evolve agreed measures to secure improvements in the industrial relations system.

#### One Union for one Industry

647. **SHRI BANAMALI PATNAIK :**  
**SHRI P. M. MEHTA :**  
**SHRI P. GANGADEB :**

Will the Minister of **LABOUR AND REHABILITATION** be pleased to state the progress made towards having one Union for one industry ?

**THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) :** The voluntary Code of Discipline already provides for the recognition of

one union in an establishment or industry. However, the National Commission on Labour had recommended Central Legislation to provide for compulsory recognition of the majority union in an establishment or industry. This recommendation was considered by the Standing Labour Committee at its 29th Session held in June 1970. But Government deferred action in this regard till the INTUC, the AITUC and the HMS were to evolve an agreed consensus on the entire question of recognition through mutual consultation. At the 27th Indian Labour Conference held in October 1971, representatives of these organisations asked for and were given time for six months more to complete these consultations.

#### Untoward incidents during taking over of Coking Coal Mines

648. **SHRI NIHAR LASKAR :** Will the Minister of **STEEL AND MINES** be pleased to state :

(a) whether there were untoward incidents in Bihar and other places at the time of taking over the management of 214 Coking Coal Mines ; and

(b) if so, the nature of the incidents ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) :** (a) and (b). No, Sir. The take over of the management of the coking coal mines was generally smooth.

#### Offers of mediation by Foreign countries between India and Pakistan

649. **SHRI NIHAR LASKAR :**  
**SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT :**

Will the Minister of **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS** be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the countries that are attempting to mediate between India and Pakistan over the Bangla Desh issue ;

(b) the progress made so far in this regard ; and

(c) by what time this problem is expected to be solved ?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) :** (a) and (b). Government have made it clear to