

Declining Share of Wages of Workers in Private Sector

560. SHRI SAROJ MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the 3 years from 1968-69 to 1970-71, there was a marked improvement in the profitability of the public limited private sector companies with manufacturing costs remaining practically uncharged;

(b) whether during the same period wages as a proportion of value had declined; and

(c) if so, whether Government have considered ways and means of removing the hardship of workers resulting from the declining share of their wages?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) According to a study based on the balance sheets of 290 large public limited companies, conducted by the Reserve Bank of India, while profitability has increased between 1968-69 and 1970-71, costs of raw materials, stores, fuel and power have also increased, and have not remained unchanged.

(b) During this period, while wages, salaries and bonus as a proportion of the total value of production (in respect of the 290 companies analysed by the Reserve Bank of India) have declined slightly from 12.3 per cent to 11.7 per cent, total wage and salary payments have increased by 21 per cent.

(c) The period between 1968-69 and 1970-71 is too short, and the number of companies selected too few to warrant any definitive conclusions as to long term trends. Government have also accepted a higher minimum bonus at 8.33 per cent of annual basic pay, for industrial workers, which will

get reflected in the total compensation to employees next year.

Wrong pronunciation etc. in Bengali News Broadcast

561. SHRI SAROJ MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the Number of complaints against the distortion of language (Bengali) during news announcement and Yuvabani Programme as well as children's news and educational functions received from the daily newspaper-columnists as well as individual listeners during the last two months, i.e. from 24th August, 1972 to 23rd October, 1972;

(b) the nature of mistakes committed regarding pronunciation, spelling and write-up and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether any positive steps have been taken to rectify such mistakes and whether the authorities regularly acknowledge the letters received from such complainants?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAMBIR SINHA): (a) No direct complaints from listeners have been received by All India Radio during the period referred to in the question. However, there have been comments in the regular Radio column published by the Bengali daily, JUGANTAR.

(b) The comments range from the quality of News Reader's voice and the priority of news items in the bulletins to suggestions that Sub-editors should also be invited for writing news commentaries.

(c) The mistakes and defects pointed out are always looked into, and corrective action taken wherever necessary.