

for the setting up of electric furnaces. These measures have already started having effect, as evidenced by the substantial drop in open market prices of several categories of steel such as Joists, Channels, and Angles etc. in the last two months.

Violence in Trade Union Movement

1591. SHRI R. N. SHARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the growing menace of violence in trade union movement in different parts of the country;

(b) whether Government have made any effort to analyse the factors responsible therefor; and

(c) if so, the factors found responsible therefor and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR): (a) According to the available provisional information, alleged indiscipline and violence accounted for 3.6 per cent of the total number of industrial disputes during 1971 as against the corresponding figure of 3.8 per cent each for 1969 and 1970.

(b) and (c). No study as such has been made on this. However, Government have been holding discussions with the interests concerned in an effort to evolve agreed measures to secure improvements in the industrial relations system.

Contract system in Coal Mines in Bihar

1592. SHRI R. N. SHARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether contract system has been discontinued in coal mines of Bihar;

(b) whether Government are aware that coal mines of Kedla and Jharkhand in Bihar have been given out to Managing Contractors for prospecting and mining; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR): (a) Contract system has not been discontinued in all the coal mines in Bihar.

(b) Yes.

(c) The entire matter of abolition of contract labour in coal mining industry has been referred to the Central Advisory Contract Labour Board for advice.

Coal Mines run by Managing Contractors in Kedla and Jharkhand areas of Bihar

1593. SHRI R. N. SHARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of coal mines in the Kedla and Jharkhand areas of Bihar run by the Managing Contractors; and the number of workers employed therein;

(b) how many of them are permanent and how many casual; and

(c) the reaction of Government to the disproportionately large number of casual workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR): (a) to (c). Out of about 6,500 employees in 40 coal mines, about 4,800 are permanent and only about 400 are casual workers. The casual workers are employed mostly in seasonal quarries and on casual nature of jobs, such as, truck loading.