

strike on December 28, 1973, in support of their demands;

(b) if so, the major demands of LIC employees; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI-MATI SUSHILA ROHATGI):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The demands of the Class III and Class IV employees of the Life Insurance Corporation included upward revision of the existing scales of pay, allowances and improvements in the terms and conditions of service. The demands were discussed between the LIC and the Unions of its employees and an agreement was signed on 24-1-1974. The consequential amendments to the LIC Staff Regulations have been approved by the Government.

**Steps to establish Jute Factories in Oil producing countries**

3269. **SHRI D. D. DESAI:**

**SHRI N SHIVAPPA:**

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to explore the possibility of establishing some jute factories in the oil producing countries; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) The oil producing countries, in general, do not have raw material for jute factories. The export of raw materials from India is also economically disadvantageous, specially when India can, by exporting finished products, obtain higher unit realization.

Efforts are therefore directed to

increase exports of manufactured jute products to this region, where substantial export possibilities exist in view of requirements for bagging food stuff, fertilizers, cement etc.

**Functioning of Public Undertakings**

3270. **SHRI D. D. DESAI:**

**SHRI RAGHUNANDANLAL BHATIA:**

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bureau of Public Enterprises has made any study of the basic problems in the functioning of Public Sector undertakings;

(b) if so, the result thereof; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken by Government to meet these problems?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH):** (a) The Government keep a constant watch over the working of public enterprises so as to take timely remedial action. An Action Committee on Public Enterprises, has also been constituted to identify the obstacles in the way of achieving higher operational efficiencies and for recommending suitable steps to remove these road-blocks.

(b) Some of the basic problems of the public enterprises relate to the long gestation periods, the time taken to develop skills in some sophisticated industries, shortage of raw materials, components and power unsatisfactory industrial relations and in some cases inadequacy of demand.

(c) Some of the important measures taken to improve the operations of public enterprises relate to:—

(i) Improvements in organisational structure and manning at the corporate as well as plant level;