

the Government of India will furnish such information and documents and render such assistance as may be required by the Commission.

5. The Government of India trust that the State Governments/Administrations of Union Territories, public sector undertakings, organisations of employers and workers and all other concerned organisations will extend to the commission their fullest cooperation and assistance.

Statement II

Terms of Reference of the proposed Second National Commission on Labour

- (i) to suggest rationalisation of existing laws relating to labour in the organised sector; and
- (ii) to suggest an umbrella legislation for ensuring a minimum level of protection to the workers in the un-organised sectors;

While drafting the framework for the above, the Commission may take into account the following:

- (i) follow up implications of the recommendations made by the Commission set up in May, 1998 for review of various administrative laws governing industry;
- (ii) the emerging economic environment involving rapid technological changes, requiring response in terms of change in methods, timings and conditions of work in industry, trade and services, globalization of economy, liberalisation of trade and industry and emphasis on international competitiveness, and the need for bringing the existing laws in tune with the future labour market needs and demands;
- (iii) the minimum level of labour protection and welfare measures and the basic institutional framework for ensuring the same, in a manner which is conducive to a flexible labour market and adjustments necessary for furthering technological change and economic growth; and
- (iv) improving the effectiveness of measures relating to social security, occupational health and safety, minimum wages and linkages of wages with productivity and in particular the safeguards and facilities required for women and handicapped persons in employment.

Revival of Patriot Newspaper and Link News Magazine

368. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to revive Patriot newspaper and Link news magazine—founded by legendary freedom fighter Aruna Asaf Ali;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government to help the suffering employees of these newspapers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As per the information received from National Capital Territory of Delhi, inspite of efforts by Labour Commissioner's office, the payment of wages to the employees was not made and the management of M/s. United India Periodicals Pvt. Ltd., has been prosecuted on several occasions under Minimum Wages Act, 1948. The employees were also advised to file their dispute of non-payment of wages before the Competent Authority.

Creation of Processed Food Sector Development Fund

369. SHRI K. PARY MOHAN : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering for creation of a Processed Food Sector Development Fund;

(b) if so, the objectives thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to include the food and agro-processing activities within the definition of priority sector for bank lending?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) Action has been initiated to explore the possibilities for setting up of a Processed Food Development Fund in collaboration with financial institutions. However, since only preliminary measures have been taken so far, the details have not been worked out.

(b) The objectives of the proposed fund are to make available adequate finance for the thrust areas of food processing sector.

(c) The Government has now included food (and agro-based) processing sector within the definition of priority sector for bank lending.

T-90 Tanks from Russia

370. SHRI D.S. AHIRE :
 SHRI S.S. OWAISI :
 SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE :
 SHRI JAYARAMA I.M. SHETTY :
 SHRI U.V. KRISHNAMRAJU :
 SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :
 PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :
 DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL :
 SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :
 SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to enter into a deal with Russia for purchase of the same T-90 tanks which were rejected earlier;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor alongwith the expenditure involved per tank;

(c) the time by which the tanks are likely to be delivered by Russia;

(d) whether the field trials of the tanks have since been carried out;

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the extent to which this tank is superior to T-80 acquired by Pakistan from Ukraïn?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) While it is contemplated to procure these tanks from Russia, it is not true that the same had been rejected, earlier.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) to (f) These tanks, have already, been evaluated in the first quarter of 1998, in Russia and shall be subjected to summer trials in India in the ensuing summer. T-90S is a letter generation tank. Comparative details are not being disclosed in the interest of security.

[Translation]

Functioning of ESIC

371. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted a committee to study the functioning of Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the report is expected?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) and (b) The Government had constituted on 22nd July, 1998 a four Member Committee to review medical facilities available in ESI Hospitals/Dispensaries.

(c) The Committee has since submitted its report on 14th January, 1999.

Setting up of HPTs and Akashvani Kendras in Bihar

372. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up High Power T.V. Transmitters and Akashvani Kendras in Begusarai, Sheikhpura and Lakhi Sarai in Bihar which are the district headquarters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to upgrade any of the existing Akashvani Kendra in Bihar; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The following projects relating to upgradation/replacement of radio transmitters are under implementation in the state of Bihar:

S. No.	Location	Existing Transmitters	Transmitters under implementation
1.	Ranchi	2 KW SW	50 KW SW
2.	Ranchi (Vividh Bharati)	1 KW MW	2 X 3 KW FM
3.	Jamshedpur	1 KW MW	2 X 3 KW FM
4.	Patna	3 KW FM (without stereo)	2 X 3 KW FM (with stereo facilities)