

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:32
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2003
STRIKE BY WORKING CLASS
SUNIL KHAN

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the working class went on a nation-wide strike on May 21, 2003;
- (b) if so, whether any advance notice was given by the Trade Union to this effect;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the main demands raised by them;
- (d) whether the Government offered effective measures to redress the grievances of the striking workers in order to avert the strike;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR)

(a) & (b): Yes Sir.

(c): The main demands raised by the trade unions were the following:-

- (i) Halt to privatisation of profit making and potentially viable public sector undertakings.
- (ii) No change in the labour laws in favour of the employers and against the interest of the workers
- (iii) Immediate enactment of comprehensive legislation for agricultural workers.
- (iv) No to policies leading to severe aggravation of joblessness and unemployment.
- (v) Widen comprehensive social security schemes for all, including workers in unorganised sector.
- (vi) Restoration of quantitative restrictions on imports.
- (vii) Amendment of Payment of Bonus Act by removing all ceilings.
- (viii) Restoration of 12% interest rate on P.F. deposits.

(d) & (e): Yes Sir, with a view to avert the strike, conciliation proceedings were held by the Regional Labour Commissioner (Central). Besides this the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) held a meeting with the representatives of the Central Trade Unions Organisations on 19.5.2003. Hon'ble Labour Minister also met the representatives of the Unions and discussed their charter of demands with them.

(f): Does not arise.