

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:590
ANSWERED ON:08.07.2009
CONTRACTUAL LABOUR IN NLC
Ramasubbu Shri S.

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the contractual workers in Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) are frequently resorting to strike;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of strikes by contractual workers during the last three years and their Charter of Demands thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has taken any steps to settle their disputes amicably;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL)

(a) to (c) : The workers employed by contractors of NLC have resorted to strikes from time to time for pursuing their demands. The details of period of such strikes by contractual workers during the last three years are given in the following table :

S.NO.	Year	No. of strike	Period of strike
1.	2006-07	1	14.11.2006 to 25.11.2006
2.	2007-08	3	16.07.2007 to 19.07.2007 08.09.2007 to 14.09.2007 16.02.2008
3.	2008-09	4	29.03.2008 to 05.04.2008 02.06.2008 to 16.06.2008 08.09.2008 to 09.09.2008 28.06.2009 to 30.06.2009

The strikes were, inter-alia, for the following demands as stated in their strike notices :

1. Payment of 8.33% of wages as Bonus.
2. Payment of additional wages @ Rs.19.23 per day over and above the prescribed minimum wages.

3. Regularisation of Contract workmen as permanent workmen of NLC.
4. Payment of wages and bonus on par with permanent employees of NLC.
5. Recognition of the Union.
6. Payment of solatium in addition to statutory benefits for death while on duty.

(d) to (f) : The workers employed by contractors are not directly engaged by NLC. All contracts are work contracts for specific period mostly in civil (earth) works and cleaning works. While all statutory provisions are being implemented for payment of wages, provident fund and other benefits, there is no obligation on the part of the principal employer to regularise the services of contract workmen. However, NLC has been taking steps to settle their disputes amicably through negotiation meetings and reconciliation proceedings held under the aegis of the Labour Commissioner (Central)/Chennai.