

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1099
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2012
TRADE UNION STRIKE
Ray Shri Saugata

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Central Trade Unions had observed an indefinite strike in the country in protest against Government's bid to destroy the Public Sector Undertakings and its coercive economic policies;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to redress the problems of Trade Unions?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES & PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a) & (b): The Major Central Trade Unions viz. Indian National Trade Union Congress, Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh, Centre of Indian Trade Unions, All India Trade Union Congress, Hind Mazdoor Sabha, United Trade Union Centre and their affiliated unions observed countrywide general strike on 28th February 2012 to press the following 10 points charter of demands:-

- (1) Concrete measures to contain price rise,
- (2) Concrete measures for linkage of employment protection with the concession/Incentive package offered to the entrepreneurs,
- (3) Strict enforcement of all basic labour laws without any exception or exemption and stringent punitive measures for violation of labour laws,
- (4) Universal social security cover for the unorganized sector workers,
- (5) Stoppage of disinvestment in Central and State PSUs,
- (6) No contractisation of work of permanent/perennial nature of job,
- (7) Amendment of Minimum Wages Act to ensure universal coverage irrespective of the schedules and fixation of statutory minimum wage at not less than Rs. 10,000/-, Remove all ceilings on payment and eligibility of Bonus, Provident Fund, increase the quantum of gratuity,
- (9) Assured Pension for all,
- (10) Compulsory registration of trade unions within a period of 45 days and immediate ratification of the ILO conventions No. 87 and 98.

All the Deputy Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) and Regional Labour Commissioner (Central) in the field had intervened on the strike notices received by them pertaining to Central Sphere.

(c): Some of the remedial measures taken/initiated by the Government are as under:

- (i) The Government has taken various fiscal as well as administrative measures to contain price rise as a result of which inflation is moderating;
- (ii) So far as enforcement of labour laws in Central sphere is concerned, there exists a well defined and effective machinery consisting of Labour Enforcement Officers (Central),

Assistant Labour Commissioners (Central), Regional Labour Commissioners (Central) and Deputy Chief Labour Commissioners (Central) under Chief Labour Commissioner (Central). Similarly, Employees State Insurance Corporation and Employees Provident Fund Organisation have their own enforcement machinery. Similar arrangements are also available in the States for enforcement of labour laws in the State sphere;

(iii) Keeping in view the recommendations of National Commission for Enterprises in Unorganised Sector and Parliamentary

Standing Committee, the Government has enacted Unorganised Workers` Social Security Act, 2008. The Government has also set up National Social Security Fund with a corpus of Rs.1000 crore. National Social Security Board has also been constituted which is advising the Government from time to time on new Social Security Schemes.

(iv) To ensure universal coverage of employment under Minimum Wages Act, a proposal for amendment in the Act has already been mooted. Regarding fixation of statutory minimum wages at not less than Rs.10, 000, the matter was discussed in the 44th Indian Labour Conference held on 14th and 15th February, 2012 but no consensus could emerge.

(v) So far as removal of wage ceilings under Provident Fund Act is concerned, the matter was debated in the 44th Indian Labour Conference held on 14th and 15th February, 2012 and a broad based consensus emerged for raising wage ceiling from present level of Rs. 6500 to Rs. 10000 or Rs. 15000.