

(d) the concrete measures taken by the Union Government to protect Tea Industry from the attack of these separatists/militants?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) Tea Industry has also been affected, like other industries by militant operations in Assam. Extortion and kidnapping of tea garden personnel are common *modus operandi* of the militants.

(c) Many tea gardens have received demand notices from different militant organisations. Some tea gardens are hesitant to report the same of police authorities. According to information furnished by State Government, 15 tea gardens were affected by militants in the form of kidnapping/extortion etc. during 1997 and 1998.

(d) The steps taken include, *inter-alia*;

- (i) induction of additional para-military force including army in insurgency infested area;
- (ii) Assam Tea Plantation Task Force has been formed for giving security coverage to tea gardens.

(iii) Sensitising State Government from time to time regarding threat received by tea garden personnel.

#### Industrial Disputes

4830. SHRI MOINU HASSAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industrial disputes pending in the two Industrial Tribunals of Dhanbad as on 31.3.98; period-wise break up more than three months, six months and above one year;

(b) the period of oldest case lying in both the Courts; and

(c) the reasons for the delay and the steps taken thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (b) The number of industrial disputes pending in the two Central Government Industrial Tribunals-cum-Labour Courts in Dhanbad, tribunal-wise and period-wise as on 31.03.1998 is:—

Name of CGIT-cum-Labour Court	Pendency of Industrial Disputes			
	More than 3 months	More than 6 months	Above 1 year	Total
No. 1 Dhanbad	38	184	791	1013
No. 2 Dhanbad	488	250	141	879
Total:	526	434	932	1892

6 industrial disputes over 10 years are pending in both the Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts at Dhanbad.

(c) Major reasons for delay and steps taken thereof are:—

- (i) Shortage of Labour Courts in States/Union Territories.
- (ii) Filling up of vacancies of the post of Presiding Officers from time to time.

(iii) Procedural impediments such as absence of affected parties at the time of hearing, adjournments sought by parties to file documents etc.

(iv) Expeditious steps are taken to fill up posts of Presiding Officers in Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts after observing all necessary formalities.

(v) Presiding Officers are also impressed upon about the need to reduce pendency of Industrial Disputes Cases in their Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts.