

(f) The concerned State Governments have taken up employment generation programmes, acceleration of water supply programmes, transportation of drinking water to areas where a source of drinking water is not available, transportation of fodder from surplus areas to the drought affected areas for cattle conservation etc. The Central Government has, besides providing technical and financial assistance to the States for improving rural water supply, also launched a 'Technology Mission on Drinking Water in Villages and Related Water Management'. The areas selected for taking up Mini-Mission Pilot Projects under the Technology Mission in 1986-87 also include areas known for prolonged drought, such as Kutch in Gujarat, Jhabua in Madhya Pradesh, Gulbarga in Karnataka, Mirzapur in Uttar Pradesh and Bankura in West Bengal.

Central Vigilance Commission's Observations on DDA

*8. DR. T. KALPANA DEVI:

SHRIMATI N. P. JHANSI
LAKSHMI:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what action has been taken on the observations made in the 22nd Report of the Central Vigilance Commission in regard to various irregularities committed in the Delhi Development Authority;

(b) whether responsibility has been fixed on individual officers for the various lapses pointed out by the commission; and

(c) if so, the action taken against the guilty officials?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI): (a) to (c). Arising out of the Central Vigilance Commission's 22nd Report, the Chief Technical Examiners' Organisation under the Central Vigilance Commission has brought to the notice of the Delhi

Development Authority six cases of irregularities in the works executed by that Authority.

Investigations were started by the DDA in all the six cases to fix the responsibility on individual officers. These have been completed in one case and are at various stages of progress in the remaining five cases. In the one case where investigations have been completed, major penalty proceedings have been initiated against five engineers.

Lockout in National Herald Group of Publications

*9. SHRI G. BHOOPATHY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have received any representation from the journalists and other employees of the National Herald group of publications regarding their sufferings due to lock-out in the papers; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The representation was forwarded to the Government of Uttar Pradesh, the appropriate Government in this case, for necessary action. According to the State Government, the dispute was amicably resolved, with the management signing a settlement with the union concerned on 12.8.1986.

Upliftment of Women Labour Force

*10. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Labour Ministers Conference held recently discussed the

problems of unorganised labour, particularly women labour; if so, the outcome of the discussions;

(b) whether Union Government have sponsored any scheme for setting up an enforcement machinery in selected districts in the country for the upliftment of women labour force; and

(c) if so, the names of such States and the details of the scheme and the procedure adopted for the implementation of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir. A statement is given below.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. Government has decided to take up, on a pilot basis, a scheme to strengthen the enforcement machinery at the State level, for better implementation of laws/legal provisions relating to women and child labour, with 50% Central assistance. The scheme will be started initially in a few districts of 4 States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

STATEMENT

The Labour Ministers met on 20 May, 1987, and endorsed the call given by the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi that 90% of the country's labour force that worked in the unorganised sector should be the first priority of both the Central and State Governments. In order to raise the status of unorganised labour, the Labour Ministers came to the conclusions that it was essential to implement the labour laws which most closely concerned them, e.g., Minimum Wages Act, 1948; Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979; the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970; the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976; the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976; the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986; the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966; etc.

One of the most important recommendations made by the State Labour Ministers was that the Minimum Wages fixed under the Minimum Wages Act should bear a relation to the concept of the poverty-line. After discussion, it was generally felt that a level of wages not lower than Rs. 11/-per day should be fixed. Many States stated that the Minimum Wages notified by them were already at or above this level. The guidelines for regional minimum wages circulated to the States were generally found acceptable.

The State Labour Ministers discussed the difficulties in implementation of the Minimum Wages Act, and concluded that action would have to be directed towards removing specific difficulties, e.g., removing lack of awareness among labour as well as of employers of the Minimum Wages Act and other Acts affecting unorganised labour; strengthening and upgrading the enforcement machinery of State Governments; ensuring of necessary mobility of inspection staff by giving them transport facility and extending to them security in the course of their work involving enforcement of labour laws affecting unorganised labour; claims authorities being appointed under the Minimum Wages Act at the block level, as also prosecuting authorities being provided, ideally, at block levels; and the assistance of various departments of State Governments being taken at field level for effective enforcement and implementation of the labour laws most closely affecting the unorganised labour.

In respect of women labour, it was agreed that the State Governments would set up the enforcement of the Equal Remuneration Act, as part of the work entrusted to labour inspectors earmarked for enforcing laws related to unorganised labour. Particularly, industries where women are employed in large numbers, e.g., Beedi making, may have arrangements for inspection and implementation of the connected legislation like Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions and Employment) Act, 1966.

[*Translation*]

Dissemination of Farm Technology by CAZRI

*11. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: