

Statement

A Committee has recently been set up with the following members —

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| 1. Shri M. Srinivasan, Director, Research, Design & Standard Organisation, Lucknow. | Chairman. |
| 2. Shri Hari Bhushan, Chief Technical Adviser, Department of Steel. | Member. |
| 3. Shri B. S. Krishnamachari, Deputy Director General, Indian Standards Institution. | Member. |
| 4. Shri D. S. Desai, Director, M's. M. N. Dastur and Co. (P) Ltd. Calcutta. | Member. |
| 5. Shri J. Mukand, Chief Engineer, Central Design Organisation, Central Public Works Department, Ministry of Works and Housing. | Member. |
| 6. Shri B. B. Rau, Adviser, Public Health Engineering, Ministry of Works and Housing. | Member. |
| 7. Dr. S. R. Pramanik, Chief Metallurgical Adviser, Metallurgical Engineering Consultants (INDIA) Limited, Ranchi. | Member. |
| 8. Shri Samarapungavan Assistant General Superintendent, Bhilai Steel Plant, Bhilai. | Member. |
| 9. Shri Kalicharan, Director, Civil Engineering, Railway Board, Ministry of Railways. | Member. |

The Committee will make recommendations for economising consumption of steel in the country.

Closure of Tea Gardens in Tripura

*177. SHRI BIREN DUTTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether many Tea Gardens in Tripura have been closed;

(b) if so, the total number of Tea Gardens closed and the names thereof; and

(c) the number of workers thrown out of job and the steps being taken to pay the arrears due to them?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY): (a) and (b). The matter falls in the State sphere. However, out of the 49 tea gardens in the State of Tripura six are reported to have been closed. Their names are Jagannathpur, Lilagarh, Sonamukhi, Devastha, Nattincherra and Harishnagar.

(c) The number of workers reported to have been affected is 355. For recovery of arrears of dues twelve cases have already been instituted against the Management of Tea Estates under

the Payment of Wages Act, 1936. Action in other cases is being considered by the State Government of Tripura.

Exploitation of Women Workers in Bidi and Building Industry by Contractors

*178. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing exploitation of women workers in Bidi and Building Industry under the contract labour system;

(b) if so, the steps taken to ensure full and timely payment of wages and provide other benefits as are enjoyed by direct labour in other industries; and

(c) what legislative or other steps are proposed to check growing exploitation of women labour in these industries and ensure better living and working conditions to them in the immediate future?