

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY): (a) No specific complaints have been received regarding increased exploitation of women workers in bidi and building industries under the contract labour system.

(b) The Minimum Wages Act 1948, applies equally to the employees engaged in the scheduled employments both employed directly or under contractors. Employments in any tobacco (including bidi making) manufacturing is already included in Part I of the Schedule to the Act. Similarly the employments on the building operations and maintenance of building are also covered under the Act. The appropriate Government for fixation, revision and enforcement of minimum wages for bidi workers and bulk of building employment industry is the State Government in the State Sphere who have notified minimum wages for the employees. The Central Government have also revised the minimum wages on 25th April, 1973 in the building industry.

(c) The Minimum Wages Act which is applicable to Bidi and Building Industries and the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 and the Rules framed thereunder are likely to help in reducing the exploitation, if any, of women labour and providing them some amenities as are available to direct labour in other industries. The C.P.W.D. has also made elaborate provisions in the Model Rules for the protection and health and sanitary arrangements for workers employed by the C.P.W.D. or its contractors.

बिहार में कटिहार स्थित पुराने जूट मिल में मजदूरों की हड़ताल

* 179. श्री ज्ञानेश्वर प्रसाद यादव : क्या अन्न मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या बिहार में कटिहार स्थित पुराने जूट मिल के लगभग एक हजार मजदूरों ने अपनी पुरानी मांगों को ले कर हड़ताल कर दी है ;

(ख) क्या उनकी मांगों को स्वीकार करने के बजाए मिल मालिकों और प्रबंधकों ने मिल में तालाबन्दी की घोषणा कर दी है ;

(ग) क्या सरकार का विचार मजदूरों को न्याय प्रदान करने हेतु कोई कार्यवाही करने का है ; और

(घ) यदि हाँ, तो सरकार द्वारा इस सम्बन्ध में क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है ?

अन्न मंत्री (श्री रघुनाथ रेड्डी): (क) से (घ). यह मामला अनिवार्यतः राज्य के कार्यक्षेत्र में आता है ।

Public Sector Units of Steel

*180. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state the specific ways and means adopted to make profit or to make up the loss at least marginally in the public sector units of Steel?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI T. A. PAI): As on 31st March 1973, Hindustan Steel Limited had incurred a total loss of Rs. 250.88 crores, on an equity investment of Rs. 610.85 crores, after making full provision for depreciation of Rs. 614.03 crores and interest or fixed loans of