

and the Government.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN PANDEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister deserves our congratulations for preparing such a good project for the development of sericulture. The schemes launched by the Central Government have been concentrated at the places where production of sericulture has been taking place through the traditional method. There are certain new areas where the Silk Board as well as the Ministry of Textiles have not paid as much attention as they were supposed to. As a result of that, development of sericulture could not take place at these places. For example, the potentialities of sericulture development can be increased if it is promoted in terai region of Uttar Pradesh viz. Dehradun, Gorakhpur, Ghonda and Baharaich. But none of these places find any mention in the projects prepared for this purpose. The headquarters of Silk Board is located in Bangalore, a distance of 3000 kilometres from here. It has, therefore, not been possible for the board to monitor the situation such a long distance. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister considering any proposal to have an office of the Silk Board at any of these places on the pattern of one in Bangalore, so that the potentialities of sericulture development could be increased and proper monitoring could be done. Secondly, I would like to know whether the Chief Minister of the States referred to by the hon. Minister have made any request to him in writing to this effect.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: It is a fact that there are some States which are engaged in sericulture development for the last many years and are producing silk in large quantities. So far as the question of Uttar Pradesh is concerned, the Central Government is making all out efforts to see that silk production increases in the State. For this purpose, I wrote letters myself. Not only that, I held talks with the Chief Minister when I was on a visit to Lucknow. He has opened a separate office for this under this charge of a director. Earlier some other departments

were also under the charge of that director. Today I have come to know that he will look after this department independently. The new project which has been taken up and a mention of which was made by me just now, covers Uttar Pradesh and two districts namely, Deharadun and Saharanpur have been identified for development of sericulture. Uttar Pradesh is a multi-climatic State having some hilly regions in it. As such there is a large potential of sericulture production in the State. We will make all out efforts, especially, for the reason that consumption of silk is high in this area. Varanasi alone requires about 2,500 tonnes whereas the total production in Uttar Pradesh is 25 tonnes. In view of this a lot remains to be done to raise silk production in Uttar Pradesh. The Central Silk Board and the Central Government are taking it very seriously so as to ensure that silk production increases in Uttar Pradesh alongwith other States which are termed as non-traditional States.

[*English*]

Loss of Mandays due to Strikes and Lockouts

*228. **SHRI S.G. GHOLAP:** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mandays lost due to strikes and lockouts in various States in 1988-89 and whether there was any improvement in this regard as compared to 1987-88; and

(b) the specific steps contemplated to improve industrial relations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHA KISHAN MALAVIYA): (a) and (b). Information on loss of mandays is maintained by calendar years only. Industrial relations as indicated by the loss of mandays during the period 1987-89 (January-April) shows an improvement with the loss of mandays declining from 35.36 million in 1987 to 32.10

million in 1988. During January-April 1989, the number of mandays lost stood at 4.87 million. A Statement on state-wise number of loss of mandays for the years 1987, 1988 and 1989 (January-April) is given below.

Both the Central and the State Govern-

ments maintain a watch on the industrial relation situation in the country. The industrial relation machinery at both the Centre and the States is taking steps to reduce industrial conflicts and minimise work stoppages through preventive mediation, conciliation and arbitration.

STATEMENT

Mandays lost due to strikes and lockouts during 1987-88

State/U.T	1987		1988 (P)		1989 (P) Jan.-April	
	Strike	Lockout	Strike	Lockout	Strike	Lockout
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	2,343,879	265,605	1,208,139	416,655	107,029	56,966
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assam	37,092	0	46,430	7,453	0	0
Bihar	235,769	1,672,695	403,478	87,436	34,739	9,000
Goa	32,968	100,040	14,939	21,444	2,540	0
Gujarat	1,055,067	590,353	193,394	100,543	64,252	33,907
Haryana	314,801	187,201	133,824	185,196	9,261	58,408

State/U.T	1987		1988 (P)		1989 (P) Jan.-April	
	Strike	Lockout	Strike	Lockout	Strike	Lockout
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Orissa	135,069	221,782	160,574	107,050	19,389	9,100
Punjab	129,270	166,950	210,231	32,784	19,389	9,100
Rajasthan	796,335	205,198	341,196	98,503	140	0
Sikkim	1,760	0	0	0	0	0
Tamil Nadu	2,616,580	688,058	1,477,919	334,013	450,056	334,051
Tripura	18,865	54,854	820	26,226	..	..
Uttar Pradesh	489,382	945,705	17,300	0	86,466	38,100
West Bengal	1,852,629	12,747,385	3,796,816	15,748,406	44,430	2,368,643
A & N. Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chandigarh	0	0	703	..	..	..
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	..	..

State/U.T	1987		1988 (P)		1989 (P) Jan. - April	
	Strike	Lockout	Strike	Lockout	Strike	Lockout
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Delhi	186,545	30,350	..	..	..	..
Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	..	..
Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pondicherry	252	0	28,693	0	0	0
All India	14,026,081	21,332,291	11,435,993	20,667,667	1,265,923	3,601,452

(P) Provisional

(..) Not available

SHRI S.G. GHOLAP: Sir, for the record, it seems that there is an improvement on loss of mandays year by year. The number of strikes is decreasing but the number of lock-out is increasing. Why is it increasing? I would like to know the steps taken by the Government in this regard.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RADHAKISHAN MALAVIYA: Sir, the hon. Member wanted to know the reasons for the increase in the number of lock-outs. There are so many reasons for increase in the number of lockouts.

Firstly, at times, cotton and textile mills are unable to stand in the competition and secondly jute mills cannot compete because of availability of synthetics in the market. Mostly, these are the two units i.e. jute and cotton which become sick in large number. Sometimes, industrial engineering units also become sick in the country. There are so many reasons for industrial units becoming sick. In some cases, raw material is not available to them and in some other cases, they are unable to face competition due to one due to one reason or the other. Some of them become sick due to their inability to compete in marketing. These are the reasons for increase in the number of lock-outs in the country.

[*English*]

SHRI S.G. GHOLAP: Sir, in West Bengal, the number of lockouts is too much and it is increasing day by day. I would like to know the reasons for the increase in the number of lockouts in West Bengal.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RADHAKISHAN MALAVIYA: Sir, as I have just stated in reply to the earlier question that mostly two types of units i.e. jute and textiles are becoming sick in large numbers and there are as many as 24 jute mills in West Bengal. That is why the number of lockouts increased in West Bengal last year.

[*English*]

SHRI ANOOPCHAND SHAH: Sir, the hon. Minister has given some figures regarding the declining trend on loss of mandays for the years 1987, 1988 and 1989 (January-April). When we look at the figure of Maharashtra, the position is not the same. In Maharashtra, the number of strikes and lockouts has increased in 1988 and again in 1989, it is still on the increase. When there is a declining trend all over India, in Maharashtra it is going up. I would like to know the reasons and the steps that the Government is going to take in this regard.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RADHAKISHAN MALAVIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have said in the very beginning that mostly cotton, textile, jute and engineering units become sick. They become sick because of non-availability of raw-material and their inability to compete in the market. As regards the number of lockouts, strikes and mandays lost in Maharashtra, I have got the figures. If the hon. Member is interested to know, I can tell him. He also wanted to know the steps taken by the Government in this regard. I would like to inform him that whenever there are lockouts and strikes of this kind, the Ministry of Labour arranges negotiations between the parties to resolve the dispute. The Ministries of Labour of as well as the Centre make efforts to the matter through negotiations in order to avert strikes and lockouts. Awards are given by the Labour Courts and the Industrial Tribunals within stipulated period in order to avoid lockouts and strikes. Workers participation in the management of public sector undertakings is being encouraged. Shortage of raw-material and stiff competition in the market are main reasons of the industrial sickness. For example, Maharashtra is having a large number of sick industrial units because there are a large number of cotton and textile mills in Maharashtra. Had Shri Datta Samant, who resigned his seat in the Lok Sabha, present here, I would have told him that he never made any efforts to provide employment to the workers. Of course,

he made significant contribution in encouraging the workers to go on strikes and as a result thereof mills became sick and lock-outs declared. This has been his main contribution.

Sir, a 'Textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund' has also been set up under the Ministry of Textiles so that financial assistance could be given to the workers from this fund for a period of 3 years in phased manner. The sickness in jute mills is attributed to shortage of raw material and stiff competition with the synthetics. A Cell has been constituted under the Reserve Bank. This cell finds out the cause of sickness and makes efforts to sort out their difficulties to the possible extent. In this way, the Ministry of Labour tries to solve the problem of sick units by setting up a tripartite committee.

[English]

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: From the information given by the hon. Minister it can be seen that in Kerala which is one of the smaller States and which has got fewer industries, the number of mandays lost is to the tune of 1.8 million days. If you take the statistics of 1987, 1988 and 1989, it can be seen that it is on the increase. May I know from the hon. Minister the attitude of the present Marxist Government in Kerala, whether it is encouraging the workers to go on strike or whether it is interested to settle the issues?

[Translation]

SHRI RADHA KISHAN MALAVIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the present Government in Kerala has neither encouraged the workers to go on strikes nor created condition forcing any lockout. As regards the question of mandays lost, I have already said in my reply that the workers resort to strike to get their demands accepted, the Ministry of Labour makes efforts to get the issue resolved through reconciliation between the concerned parties. As regards lockouts, I have already said that they resort to lock-outs when their units become sick or when they

are not in a position to run the units for one reason or the other or due to financial constraints. In so far as Kerala is concerned, he stated that he had got statistics with him. I also have some statistics in this regard. Your statistics are with regard to the matters which come under the jurisdiction of the State Government which is the appropriate authority to act in such matters on their own. So far the Central Government is concerned, it acts only when there is a strike or lock-out in any one of its central undertakings such as Mining, Food Corporation of India, banking which come under the jurisdiction of the Central Government. The figures which you are having are mostly related to undertakings which come under the jurisdiction of the State Government of Kerala and the State Government takes initiatives to deal with the problem.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 229. Shri Ram Pyare Panika.

[Translation]

SHRI RADHA KISHAN MALAVIYA: This question is also related to my Ministry.

MR. SPEAKER: It is your day today.

[English]

SHRI RADHA KISHAN MALAVIYA: Labour Day.

[Translation]

You run the textile mills, but I am answerable if strikes take place.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Which Labour day?

Seminar on Child Servitude

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*229. SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA:
SHRI JAGANNATH PATNAIK:
Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state: