

Janata sari and dhoti but that scheme had an adverse affect on the skill. There was also bungling in it. There is no doubt that our weavers are capable of preparing good quality cloth. At that time, when the weaver prepared one dhoti, four dhoties were shown in the records. This gave rise to corruption...*(Interruptions)* I am bringing it to the notice of the hon. Members but they do not want to listen. We tried to check the corruption. We have launched a new scheme to uplift the standard of life of the weavers. In the Seventh Five Year Plan Rs. 7300 crore were allocated for this purpose and out of it, Rs. 1836 crore were provided for this scheme. *(Interruptions)* I am putting forth the entire picture and if there is any lacuna, the hon. Members may definitely raise a question. According to the report of Opposition Committee if husband and wife of both are working together they get Rs. 300/- in wages. The question is how to increase their wages?

We have sanctioned Rs. 1836 crore during the Eighth Five Year Plan and set up 3000 handloom weavers development Centers in villages and supplied hank yarn in the required quantity and brought the cloth prepared by them in the market and also arranged for their marketing. We have also formulated a scheme for their children and two lakhs of bicycles are still with us so that they may take their cloth for marketing. We are trying day and night to make them take these bicycles for marketing their cloth so that more money could be earned by weavers but when the question of implementation comes, then we approach the state Governments and we feel embarrassed...*(Interruptions)*

ONE HON. MEMBER : His intentions are malafide...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he says that my intentions are malafide. Mr. hon. Members hails from Bihar. I want to ask him as to how much money we have sanctioned for Bihar and to what extent you have implemented this scheme?

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : We want to know from you as to how much money you have given to Bihar...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : You ask your Chief Minister.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Yadav, if you just want to criticise the Minister, you are not going to get any help. If you want to attack the difficulties, you will get some help.

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister in his reply has given the details up to 60 counts. But in Mayurbhanj area, the

Important handloom market area in U.P., 200s and 280s are the main consumer counts of hank yarn. You have mentioned nothing about the 200s and 280s counts. Further, after hon. G. Venkat Swamy has come, he has brought Hank Yarn Obligation Scheme and 20 million kgs scheme, I am told that discrimination is being shown in procuring yarn under this Hank Yarn Obligation Scheme. How much yarn has been procured from the public sector, that is, N.T.C., and Cooperatives, and how much yarn has been procured from the private sector? I also want to know categorically, how much yarn has been procured from Southern India and Northern India. More hank yarn obligation is there in Southern India, but there is discrimination. Therefore, I want to know from the Minister whether the discrimination in procuring hank yarn from the textile industry will be removed. I also want to know from the Minister about the 200s and 280s counts, which are the main consumer counts in U.P., mainly in Mayurbhanj area. The prices have increased; this year, there is drought also. So, what are you going to do for the remaining part of this year?

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, adequate efforts have been made to protect the handloom weavers. Hank yarn obligation orders are being strictly enforced thus ensuring overall availability of yarn to weavers. Export ceiling on cotton yarn has been reduced from 130 million kgs to 75 million kgs.

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN : Sir, I want to know how much is the hank yarn obligation procurement from Southern India and Northern India.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : It is a separate question and I want the hon. Member to give a notice for this.

MR. SPEAKER : You collect the information, analyse it and send it to him.

*[Translation]*

#### LABOUR MINISTERS, Conference

\*83. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) The decision taken in the conferences of Labour Ministers of States held during 1992; and

(b) the decisions which have been accepted and implemented so far and the suggestions which have not yet been agreed to?

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT**

The 40th and 41st Sessions of Labour Ministers' Conference were held on 6th February and 13th August

1992 respectively. The main conclusions of the Conference as well as the action taken thereon are indicated in Annexures I and II respectively.

**ANNEXURE-I****Action taken on the Conclusions of 40th Labour Ministers' Conference held on 6th February, 1992 in New Delhi.**

Item No.	Conclusions	Action Taken
1	2	3
(1)	The recommendations of the Ramanujam Committee on restructuring of industrial relations law, which are unanimous, should be accepted. A group of 5 State Labour Ministers should examine the areas of disagreement in the report of the committee with a view to arrive at a consensus and submit their report for consideration by the Indian Labour Conference.	In pursuance of this decision Committee consisting of Labour Ministers of Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Tamilnadu under the chairmanship of Union Minister of Labour was constituted on 25th Feb., 1992.  The report of the Committee was placed for consideration by the ILC held on 7-8 September 1992.
(2)	As regards the new industrial policy, the conference recommends that steps should be taken to protect the interests of the labour, enhance their welfare and provide facilities for skill upgradation so that they are able to adjust to technological changes.	While considering this conclusion. The Government noted that to protect the interest of workers in the wake of implementation of New Industrial Policy, the National Renewal Fund (NRF) was established on 3.2.92. One component of the Fund namely, National Renewal Grant Fund (NRGF) was meant to deal with the immediate requirements of labour in sick units on accounts of revival or closure of such units. This Fund, inter-alia, was also meant for implementation of schemes relating to re-training re-deployment counselling and placement. The Director General of Employment & Training (DGE&T) under the Ministry of Labour has also commenced short duration training courses for workers who have taken voluntary retirement as well as other surplus workers. At present training is imparted for a batch of 1585 workers at Ahmedabad, Pune, Nagpur, Dhanbad, Bangalore, Mangalore, Kolar, Coimbatore and Cochin. As of now an amount of Rs. 10 crores has been placed at the disposal of the DGET for carrying out these training courses.
(3)	Minimum wages for unskilled labour should not be fixed below Rs. 20/- per day. Minimum wages should be revised at an interval of 3 to 4 years and should have a component linked to the consumer price index.	The Central Government on its part has fixed the minimum rate of wages at or above Rs. 20/- for the 40 scheduled employment in respect of which it is the appropriate Government. The State Govts./Union Territory Administrations are the appropriate Govt. for the fixation of minimum rate of wages for the scheduled employments in the State sphere. The recommendations of the N.C.R.L. for fixing the basic minimum wages at Rs. 20/- per day for rural workers has already been brought to the notice of all the

1	2	3
		<p>State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations. Consequent to the 40th Session of the Labour Ministers Conference, this recommendation was again reiterated to States/Union Territory Administrations at various levels.</p> <p>Similarly, the State Govts./Union Territory Administrations have been advised to review/revise the rate of minimum wages once in two years unless a variable component linked to Consumer Price Index number is provided as part of minimum wages.</p>
(4)	Workers, participation in management should be encouraged so that there is a better understanding by the workers and the management of the importance of productivity and efficiency and the problems of management as well as the need for welfare measures for workers.	In accordance with the 1973 amendment of the Constitution, successive schemes for workers' participation in management were introduced and taken up for implementation. The scheme now in operation was notified by the government on 30th December 1983. Keeping in view the shortcomings of the various schemes implemented from time to time and also the experience gained in this regard, the Government decided to give legislative back up in the matter. The participation of Workers in Management Bill introduced in May, 1990 for the purpose is now under the examination by the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour & Welfare. In the meanwhile, the progress of implementation of the existing scheme is being reviewed and monitored on a regular basis.
(5)	The representatives of a number of State Governments favoured participation of workers in the equity capital as well as taking over of management of sick industrial enterprises by workers.	While considering this suggestion, Govt. noted that the new Industrial Policy announced on 24.7.91 envisaged that workers cooperatives would be encouraged to participate in the packages designed to turn around sick companies. Keeping this in view the issue of extension of NRF coverage to workers cooperatives was considered by the Empowered Authority of NRF and it was agreed to extend NRF and assistance to workers cooperatives under certain terms and conditions.

## ANNEXURE-II

## Action taken report of the 41st Labour Ministers' Conference held on 13.8.1992 in New Delhi

Item No.	Conclusions	Action Taken
1	2	3
(i)	The summary of the recommendations of the Committee of five Labour Ministers (Maharashtra, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu,	The report of the Committee of five labour Ministers on the contentious issues of the Ramanujam Committee Report was placed before the 30th Session of the Indian Labour

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Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh) under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister of State for Labour on the contentious issues of the Ramanujam Committee Report was considered by the Conference and it was decided to place the recommendations before the Indian Labour Conference to be held on the 7th and 8th September, 1992.

- (ii) The Conference decided to appoint a Committee of Labour Ministers to go into the recommendations of the National Commission on Rural Labour (NCRL) relating to the following :—

- (a) Social security;
- (b) Central legislation for agriculture labour;
- (c) central legislation for construction workers; and
- (d) Appointment of National Commission on Bonded Labour.

The Labour Minister of Maharashtra will be the Chairman of the Committee and the Labour Ministers of twelve States of Kerala, Bihar, U.P., Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Orissa, Tripura, Andhra Pradesh, M.P., Manipur and Meghalaya will be members. The report of the Committee will be placed before the next conference of Labour Ministers.

- (iii) A Special Conference of Labour Ministers will be convened to consider the question of improvement of the quality of medical services under the Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC). The Conference may be held in Bombay in the second week of October, 1992.

Conference (ILC) held on 7-8 September, 1992. The ILC felt that it would be more useful to discuss the matter after the views of the Government were known in this regard. The Chairman assured that the draft of the proposed Industrial Relations and Trade Unions Bill would be prepared keeping in view the ideas and suggestions expressed by all the parties and the changes that had since taken place both inside and outside the country. Accordingly, the Bill to amend the Trade Unions Act was prepared, which has been referred to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare for examination and report. Like-wise proposals to amend the Industrial Disputes Act also have been prepared and approval to introduce the Bill in Parliament is being obtained from the competent authority.

The Union Labour Minister himself took meetings of Labour Secretaries and other concerned senior officials of State Govts. as also of State Labour Ministers and secured a general consensus on the need for Central legislation for Agricultural workers and construction workers. It was agreed that social security schemes for unorganised classes of workers needed to be implemented including through expansion of existing schemes. As the National Human Rights Commission, which has come to be established has mandate on bonded labour as well, it was felt that there was no need for a separate Commission on bonded labour.

The 42nd Labour Ministers' Conference was convened on 7-8 July, 1993 in New Delhi. Issues of improvement of the quality of medical services under the ESIC was, inter-alia, discussed in this conference. The decisions taken in this Conference were considered and the Corporation has, inter-alia, decided on 4th August, 1994 that ceiling on expenditure on medical care be raised to Rs. 410 per insured person family unit per annum with effect from 1.4.94 out of which a minimum expenditure of Rs. 130 should be exclusively earmarked for drugs and dressings.

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- (iv) It was felt that the question of restrictions on employment of outsiders and the problems of Inter-State migrant workers require serious consideration and, therefore, could be referred to the Inter-State Council and even to the National Integration Council.
- (v) To consider the suggestions contained in agenda items No. 12 to 47 for the 41st Labour Ministers Conference, it was decided to appoint a Committee of Labour Ministers under the Chairmanship of the Labour Minister of West Bengal. Labour Ministers of ten States of Gujarat, Haryana, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Sikkim and Pondicherry would be members. The recommendations of the Committee will be placed before the next conference of Labour Ministers.
- (vi) In regard to child labour, the following conclusions were arrived at :
- (a) These should be more effective implementation of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986.
- (b) Ministry of Labour will examine all suggestions/lacunae and will bring in suitable amendments to the Act.
- (c) There is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for strengthening of Enforcement machinery wherein 50% assistance is given to State Governments. The Scheme which has been introduced on a pilot basis in two States will be opened to all the States.

The matter relating to the problems faced by Inter-State Migrant Workers has been referred to the Inter-State Council in the first instance.

The Committee of Labour Ministers has since submitted its report which will be placed before the forthcoming Conference of Labour Ministers.

The State Governments have been requested to have the enforcement position of various laws relating to child labour reviewed with a view to ensuring their rigorous enforcement.

Certain amendments to the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act to make it more effective are under active consideration of the Government.

This Scheme is amongst those which have been discontinued in the Centrally Sponsored Sector, based on Planning Commission's advice.

[Translation]

SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my original question was what decisions have been taken for labourers in the conference and which of them have been implemented? He has in his reply told the dates when meetings with State Governments, were held. My original question was whether those decisions were strictly enforced or not?

If enforced, the names of the places where these decisions were implemented and if not the reasons therefor?

[English]

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : I have given a very detailed answer here on which decisions and what actions were taken. The decisions of the Conferences are to be implemented by the Central Government and by the State Governments. Every action that has been taken has been elaborated. I do not think I can elaborate anything more.

MR. SPEAKER : You read the written reply, you will get the reply.

[Translation]

SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was decided in the labour conference of '93 that the labour laws would be strictly enforced and a vigilance committee would be constituted therefor. It had also ruled out the possibility of setting up a commission for unorganised labourers and poor farmers. What are you doing for their benefits?

[English]

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : The question relates specifically to the Labour Ministers' Conference held in 1992. I have given all the reply. If the hon. Member wants to know about 1993 Conference, I will require a notice for that.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : In the 41st Indian Labour Conference which was held in the year, 1992 a decision was taken to appoint a Committee of Labour Ministers to go into the recommendations of the National Commission on Rural Labour. That Commission recommended for a comprehensive legislation for agricultural labour as well as construction labour. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government will bring a comprehensive legislation for agricultural labour and also for the construction workers because the agricultural labour are agitating. They will be holding a massive rally in Delhi in front of Parliament. There is an urgent need for a comprehensive legislation for agricultural workers. I want to know whether that legislation will come or not.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : In the last Session, I had an occasion to assure the House on this question. The National Commission on Rural Labour has recommended a legislation for agricultural workers and construction workers. The Ministry of Labour had accepted the recommendation. All the consultations with the State Governments had been completed. The Ministers' Committee has approved it and the Bill is at the final stage of drafting.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : You have not said about construction workers.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : I have said about both.

SHRI K.P. REDDAIAH YADAV : The hon. Minister knows that for the last four years, we have switched over to a new industrial policy and economic policy. Earlier, under public sector undertakings, we have been following certain labour laws i.e., unions and all that. I want to know whether the hon. Minister has given a serious thought to the fact that the implementation of new industrial policy and the labour unionism cannot travel parallelly and whether the Government intends to change either the labour laws, the union laws etc., or the industrial policy

because these two things cannot go together. Many industries are facing lot of troubles. The Government, on the one side, says that it is new economic policy. On the other side, they insist on unionism. How these two things can travel parallelly? I want to know this from the hon. Minister.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : There are two Acts which govern the industrial relations in our country. One is the Trade Union Act and the other is the Industrial Disputes Act. Government proposes to bring changes in both the Acts. In fact, the Trade Union Act Amendment Bill is already before the Rajya Sabha. It has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha. It has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha. I think it is before the Standing Committee now. I am told that the Standing Committee has finalised its recommendations. As soon as we get it, I am sure it will be taken up in the Rajya Sabha and then it will come to Lok Sabha.

As far as the Industrial Disputes Act is concerned, we have examined it thoroughly. We have not come to a final conclusion. But the Government really feels the need to bring certain changes in that Act also.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is stated in it that a bill related to worker's participation in management was moved here in 1990 i.e. in the last Lok Sabha and has been pending with the Standing Committee for the last four years. Now the term of the House is going to be over. I want to know through you as to why this has been pending before the Standing Committee for the last four years and whether Mr. Minister has tried to know the reasons therefor?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : That is not the Standing Committee of this house.

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Is it before the Departmentally-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour?

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : Yes, it is with the Standing Committee of Parliament. The problem is that there have been a very large number of amendments proposed by the hon. Members of Parliament in the other House reflecting different ideas and different views of different political parties. We try to bring some sort of a consensus.

SHRI RAM NAIK : For the last four years?

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : Discussions are going on because even the unions themselves are discussing so much. In any case, the Bill is now before the Standing Committee. I have met the hon. Members of this Standing

Committee. I think they are coming to some understanding. As soon as they come to some understanding, it will be before the House.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : For how long will we have to wait?

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I thought that perhaps it was pending with the Standing Committee of Labour Ministry and not that of Parliament, but Mr. Minister has put us in the dock. If any Standing Committee takes four years, then it is wrong.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is too long a time. We will look into it.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of Mr. Minister through you that Deputy Director General of the International Labour Organisation had toured Varanasi and Bhadohi area in April, 1995 which is a carpet weaving belt. It is the area where carpet weaving labourers are in a large number.

MR. SPEAKER : The main question is related to the Labour Ministers' conference of 1992.

SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI : I am coming to the issue of child labour. A memorandum has been given to the Union Labour Minister against exploitation of child labourer by carpet industries and carpet exporters but Mr. Labour Minister has not contradicted it so far. I want to know why Labour Minister has not contradicted it, what are the reasons therefor? Sir, this is causing very adverse impact on our carpet industry whereas the Government of India earns crores of rupees in revenues from it. Today the carpet weavers of Mirzapur, Varanasi and Bhadohi are starving, this is the situation?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Would you like to reply?

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : I have not only contradicted the statement made by the hon. Minister of Germany but also I have informed the ILO that we do not accept any external assistance as far as Elimination of Child Labour Programme is concerned. The Prime Minister was kind enough to allocate Rs. 850 crores. This is a good enough money for us. So, I have even refused to take any external assistance for the Programme towards Elimination of Child Labour.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDER SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of India has always been giving assurance in the House that no external interference in our country would be tolerated.

I would like to draw the attention of Labour Minister to the fact that Labour Minister of Germany toured my constituency and there after called a press conference and made a propaganda that in India carpets were being made by child labourers.

He also stated that the carpets from India should not be purchased because they are being made by child labourers. So Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from Labour Minister as to what power the Labour Minister of Germany has got that he went to the extent of raising the issues concerning the Labour Ministry of India.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the question.

This is not allowed.

[Translation]

When I cannot stop you from speaking here then how I could stop there.

SHRI VIRENDER SINGH : If the Government is unable to stop him, the people of India are powerful enough to stop him and definitely I will stop him.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker Sir, the hon. Minister has given a statement here and said that everything has been mentioned in it. I would like to draw his attention towards Annexure II of the statement and ask a question. In that he has said that

[English]

In regard to child Labour, the following conclusions were arrived at :

[Translation]

And this meeting was held on 13th August, 1992. He has also given details of the conclusions and Action Taken thereon.

[English]

What are the conclusions?

(a) There should be more effective implementation of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986.

[Translation]

The Labour Ministers of State Governments and Union Labour Minister sit together to take decisions. What is the action taken.

[English]

Action Taken: The State Governments have been requested to have the enforcement position of various laws relating to child labour reviewed with a view to ensuring their rigorous enforcement.

The second recommendation is

[Translation]

What is the next recommendation.

[English]

(b) The Ministry of Labour will examine all suggestions/lacunae and will bring in suitable amendments to the Act.

[Translation]

What is today the position of the law of 1986, the decision of 1992 and Action taken.

[English]

Certain amendments to the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act to make it more effective are under active consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

It means nothing and the third interesting recommendation it has been made together.

[English]

(c) There is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for strengthening of enforcement machinery wherein 50 percent assistance is given to State Governments. The scheme which has been introduced on a pilot basis in two States will be opened to all the States.

[Translation]

And what is the Action Taken.

[English]

This Scheme is amongst those which have been discontinued in the Centrally Sponsored Sector, based on Planning Commission's advice.

[Translation]

I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what kind of conference you do organise for this? Why do you take such decision and why do you mislead the people

especially labourers and I will like to ask finally as to why that type of action report is presented here?

[English]

SHRI PA SANGMA: The hon. Member has raised basically two points. Firstly, about the implementation of the Act. The implementation of the Act is to be done by the State Governments. That is the reason why this particular issue is discussed in the Conference of the Labour Ministers of all the States because it is the State Governments who have to implement this. But when we decide that the law will be strictly implemented, it cannot be done in a day. The implementation of the law specially of this nature is a continuous process. And the type of problem that we are facing in the case of child labour is not an easy one. In fact, I am happy to inform the House that we have made a lot of progress towards the elimination of child labour by 2000 in the hazardous industries which is our target. And we are convening on the 13th and 14th of September a workshop of one hundred Collectors where there is concentration of child labour. The idea is, how to implement it, how to enforce the law and many other projects. As I said in reply to the earlier question, Rs. 850 crore is available with us, I must say that the State Governments are taking keen interest. I am talking to the Chief Secretaries, I am talking to the Labour Ministers. In fact, there has been a very good response to the proposed Collectors Conference and a lot of work is being done. But the implementation of the law cannot be done overnight. I cannot give you any assurance.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is not a proper reply. I do not know as to whether you are satisfied with his reply or not but I had raised three points but instead of giving a proper answer to these points he gave a sermon.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, are you satisfied with the answer?

MR. SPEAKER: The House should be satisfied.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: How the whole House could be satisfied when not even a single Member has been satisfied with the reply I have not got any reply.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Your question was why there was delay. Well, the reply of the Minister is that the State Government is responsible.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Why the scheme has been discontinued?

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : This matter is not related to the State Government. The last point was related to the Central Government.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, you are right.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : You have discontinued the scheme which was finalised by all the people. Recommendations were made, but those were not implemented...*(Interruptions)* he would not speak anything.

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Why it has been discontinued?

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : There is no discontinuation.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Why do you say that in the reply?...*(Interruption)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed Shri Sharad Yadav. Nothing-else will go on record.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue of child labour is really a very serious matter. I do not know what is happening in the world but it has got a special significance in this country. I hold that the debate which is going on here in the House is merely an imitation of the debate going on all over the world on child labour. There seems to be no seriousness behind it.

The question is what is the concept of Child Labour in our country, you must discuss it with all the political parties. It is not proper to implement it after consulting only with the Labour Minister. It is necessary to demarcate as to who comes under the category of child Labour and who does not. Moreover, the handicrafts of the nation cannot survive unless and until children are engaged in it from their childhood only. The handicraft of the nation is not a simple thing and learning the handicraft from childhood is not at all atrocious. As a matter of fact, it is an art and I believe that it enjoys world wide popularity because of this very reason only.

MR. SPEAKER : This is like an edge of a Razor, so you speak carefully. This has got two aspects.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : I am serious about that matter. We have to consider as to who comes under the definitions of child labour and who does not. The people engaged in the handicrafts, it is a fact, cannot learn

carpentry or the work of blacksmith at the age of 15 or 20 years. If the child of a weaver does not learn weaving from his childhood then he is not going to learn it after this stage. Similarly, there are so many works of handicrafts which cannot be learned after crossing a certain age.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please come to the question.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question is very important. This question is raised every time and I rise to speak every time.

MR. SPEAKER : You will be given an opportunity after the speech is over. You speak on your question or let others ask their questions.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : I am coming to the question only. The art of the nation particularly the art of music...

MR. SPEAKER : Are you going to do something for the protection of such an art or not.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : If some are exponents of Tabla or some are learning from a teacher then do not include them. Such artists should be encouraged to get recognition. Through you, I would like to urge the Minister that in an all party meeting we should consider which part of the country is covered under the child Labour Act and the areas, which are not. The children are maltreated. They are engaged in filthy jobs. We should concentrate on such areas of work. Children are engaged in various types of work in homes as well as in hotels. Is it not injustice to them? Can you neglect such children or can you neglect those children who are engaged in brick-kilns?

MR. SPEAKER : Are you going to deliberate on such a serious issue?

[English]

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Member for giving a good suggestion of consulting all the political parties. I accept the suggestion. I will convene a meeting of all the political parties.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA : According to the reply of the hon. Minister the Conference of Labour Minister recommended in Item No. 2 i.e. protect the interests of the labour, enhance their welfare and provide facilities for skill upgradation so that they are able to adjust to the technological changes. Regarding implementation, on 3rd February, 1992 a National Renewal Funds was established.

I want to know from the hon. Minister how much money has so far been released from the National Renewal Funds.

MR. SPEAKER : You can ask these statistics in writing

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA : I would like to know whether any action has been taken so far by the hon. Minister to protect the interests of these units, to revive these units by making use of the Fund.

MR. SPEAKER : If you have the information, give it. Or you can send it to him later on.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : I have got the information, Sir. the allocation for the National Renewal Fund in 1992-93 was Rs. 829.66 crore and the disbursement was Rs. 688.72 crore. In 1993-94 the allocation was Rs. 1040.40 crore and the disbursement was Rs. 542.23 crore. In 1994-95, up to 31st March, the allocation was Rs. 200 crore and the disbursement was Rs. 251 crore.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we agree that the Minister is taking seriously the issue of oppression and exploitation of Child Labour. The Minister has promised to put a stop to this (oppression) making in Firozabad, which are sold not only in the country but also exported. After the death of the fathers, their sisters, brothers and their mothers are left behind to look after the work. I would like to know from the Minister as to what steps he is going to take to end the oppression of such fatherless children. Will the Government think over it, in all seriousness?

MR. SPEAKER : He has said.

...(Interruptions)...

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : It is a very serious question. The Minister should state as to what the Government proposes to do for such marooned families?

[English]

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : Firozabad is one of the hundred districts initially selected where the Conference will take place in September. We have requested the Collector of each of these hundred districts to identify fifty places where, from the month of November itself, we would start the primary schools. In special schools for children who are working, they will be given stipend and midday meal. So, in each district fifty schools will be started from November.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : The question has taken a different turn. I had asked about the policy being formulated by the Government for such families.

MR. SPEAKER : It spends money on the children's education.

...(Interruptions)...

MR. SPEAKER : If you have sympathy with them, then go through the full scheme.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : That is not in the scheme...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in his reply the Minister referred to the workers participation and Management Bill. It dates back to 1990 and it still stands in Rajya Sabha in my name. When I was the Labour Minister, we had completed all the formalities and the Bill was almost to be passed by the Parliament. Even after five years, the Government says that it has been referred to the Standing Committee for deliberation. I want to know whether it would be discussed in this session and be passed or not?

[English]

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : I think when my friend Mr. Paswan was the Minister then, maybe he was not very sure of his tenure there as to how long he was going to stay. So, he had to work day and night and he had to rush. Therefore the Bill was adopted in such a rush that there are more than 80 amendments, very vital ones. Everything has been referred to the Standing Committee. The moment it comes back, it will be before the House.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I object. Standing Committee was constituted last year only. What happened in the intervening three years?

[English]

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : As we all accept, this is a grave problem. At least we were discussion about it for a long time. I was also there in the Committee. Several proposals were made for the intensive areas.

MR. SPEAKER : Are you also in the Committee?

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : Previously I was in the Child-Labour Committee; not now. We made several proposals that in the intensive areas there should be some effective measures to give financial aid to the families, to send them to the school and also to give them a light work in the schools. Some hours of light work can be given to them, so that they can earn something doing some work after the schooling.

So many such proposals were made. They have selected Sivakasi and the functioning there is very bad. They have not actually progressed very much. So, I would like to know from the Minister what they are proposing to

do in areas where child labour is much more intensive.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : All the proposals that the hon. lady Member has referred to have been accepted by the Government. After consultation with the hundred district collector, ...*(Interruptions)* All these programmes will be implemented from the 1st November, 1995, including the programme referred to by her.

*[Translation]*

DR. P.R. GANGWAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now the Minister said that child labour is in state List and progress has been made in this regard. In the Parliament Complex itself I have seen child labourer engaged in earth work, preparation of beds for planting etc. That is not the work of the State Government. What action has been taken by the Labour Minister to put a stop to Child labour in the Parliament complex?

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Well, this question is very important. Probably, you should have brought it to my notice. And if it is happening, I will take proper action against it. But it was your duty to bring it to my notice before raising it on the floor of the House. Probably, you should not appear to be getting publicity to your statement.

...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : I have answered, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is very wrong on the part of the hon. Member.

...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. SPEAKER : If it is not correct, I will send this matter to the Privileges Committee.

...*(Interruptions)*...

*[Translation]*

AN HON. MEMBER : Please name them ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : No. Parliament should not be maligned in this fashion. And Parliament should not be taken in this light fashion. If it is there, I will see that the corrective actions are taken and I will ask the Officers why it is done. If it is not there, I will send this matter for proper action against the Member to the Privileges Committee.

*[Translation]*

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER : He is in charge of the Lok Sabha. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANNA JOSHI : We will bring their names, will you. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. PREM DHUMAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the first Annexure, on page two, in his reply the Minister has mentioned the recommendation to enhance the daily wage to Rs. 20. It has also been said that the daily wage would be linked to Consumer Price Index. In his Action Taken portion, the Minister has mentioned that this recommendation has been implemented on various levels in the States and in the Union Territories. I want to know from the Minister, whether it is just to fix the daily wage at a mere Rs. 20, considering the price rise?

Part (a), of my question is whether the Central Government would implement it merely in states, or it would also monitor whether the minimum wage of Rs. 20 is being paid there or not? Part (b) of the question is, do you consider Rs. 20 adequate? Part (c), relates to your reply, in which you said it would be linked to Price Index. Will you take effective steps to achieve it?

*[English]*

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : Sir, I have got the details of what the hon. Member wants to know in a statement regarding what each State Government has done. It will take a long time to read it out here. I will, perhaps, inform the hon. Member later.

*[Translation]*

PROF. PREM DHUMAL : To link it to the Price Index and to consider Rs. 20 as adequate, seem somewhat contradictory.

*[English]*

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : You are correct. Not all the State have linked it to the price Index—some States have and some States have not. All this information is available.

PROF. PREM DHUMAL : Will you issue instructions to the other States also to implement that?

*[Translation]*

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is an important section of workers, which is seldom discussed in the House—the Beedi workers. Women constitute 90 percent of the work force engaged in Beedi making. During the previous session, a very big conference was organised by them in my constituency. Ninety per cent of the participants were women. The main issue raised by them was regarding their pitiable working conditions. They work in small sheds and cells lacking proper ventilation. What is more, Beedi workers are effected with T.B. I apprehend they must also be affected with cancer. There is no provision for medicines for its cure. In view of their plight, they have

demanding that the Government should formulate a life insurance scheme for them, provided for better working conditions and hospitals should be set up in the area having major beedi making centres. Have you formulated any special scheme in this regard for the Beedi workers? And what steps are you going to take?

[English]

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : Sir, it is true that majority of beedi rollers are women and they do this job in their respective homes. It is not easy to regulate them because rolling is done at home—it is done in their respective residences. As far as the packing is concerned, it is done in a factory. I have visited a number of them and I have visited their families also. Doing various welfare schemes for the beedi workers is no the priority of the Government of India. There are a number of dispensaries which are running and there are a number of hospitals. I do not have the full details now as to how many hospitals and dispensaries are there. But as far as the insurance part is concerned, we have launched a Group Insurance Scheme. I do not have the details now, but one thing which I remember is that the beedi workers do not have to contribute anything. 50 percent of the premium comes from the Finance Ministry, Government of India and another 50 percent of the premium comes from the Welfare Fund which we have set up for the beedi workers. So, the Group Insurance Scheme is on.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY : In the recommendation it is said that the sick industries will be taken over by the Workers' Cooperatives. So, I want to know whether this scheme of handing over sick industries to the Cooperative is actually framed and implemented.

Secondly, as regards social security, it was discussed and decided that the social security scheme should be extended. I want to know what is the modified social security scheme as discussed in the Labour Ministers' Conference.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : Sir, it was the policy of the present Government right from the beginning that if the workers are willing to form a Cooperative Society and take over the sick mills, the Government would be very happy to hand over to them. This announcement was made by the hon. Finance Minister in the Special Tripartite Meeting; and the hon. Finance Minister went to the extent of offering to see that the liabilities are also written off on a case to case basis. That was also there. Unfortunately, there is not much response to that. Perhaps one reason why there was not much response to that was that they were not entitled to the National Renewal Fund because money in the National Renewal Fund being limited, it was being used only for the Central Public Sector Undertakings. There is one Workers' Cooperative Society which is running a mill, a new Central Jute Mill; they had come to me a number of times to ask that they wanted some assistance from the NRF. We could not

give it, but I am happy to inform the House that in the last meeting of the Empowered Authority, a decision has now been taken to give assistance from NRF also to the Workers' Cooperatives, if they are reviving the sick units.

12.00 hrs.

SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK : Sir, I think, the workers engaged in the manufacturing of beedi will be limited as compared to the workers who are collecting the tendu leaves. In my State, mostly in five or six districts, men and women have been collecting the leaves. Even the children are engaged in collecting the tendu leaves in my State.

It is a matter of regret that the labourers engaged to collect the tendu leaves are being paid Rs. 12 per day. It is a Government agency and Government is responsible for that. Why are Rs. 20 not being paid to them?

Tendu leaves are a major source of income in my State....\*\*

MR. SPEAKER : No, no; it is not going on record.

SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK : I would like to know whether Rs. 12 are still being given to them. What about the backlog which has not been given to them? Will the Minister of Labour do justice to the people who are engaged in the collection of tendu leaves?

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : I do not have the figure of the tendu leave workers. I do not compare it. As far as beedi workers are concerned, there are about five million such workers in the country. The minimum wage fixed by the Government of Madhya Pradesh for the unskilled workers, which include the tendu leave workers, is Rs. 30.76 p.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

### Vacant Posts of Chairman/CMD in Banks

\*82. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of nationalised banks which are functioning in the country without full-time Chairman/CMD and the dates from which these posts are lying vacant, bank-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to abolish the post of Chairman in banks; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay in filling up the vacant posts in the banks?

\*\* Not Recorded