

in his address to the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry on January 13, 1996. During bilateral talks, the Canadian Premier was briefed on the various measures that are being taken to eliminate child labour in India.

Compensation to mine victims

*158. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 7 given in the Rajya Sabha on 27th November, 1995 and state:

(a) the amount which was given to the families of deceased persons and those who were injured in the coal mine accident in Bihar;

(b) whether compensation was insufficient as contained in Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 and was based on the age and monthly earning of workers, details thereof;

(c) whether Government have any provision to enhance the amount of the compensation to workers who were killed/injured in coal mines in Bihar during last year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and whether Government will amend the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, to make it in workers favour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) A total compensation of Rs. 87.61 lakh was paid by Coal India Limited to the families of persons who died in the accidents which took place during 1995 in coal mines in Bihar.

(b) The above compensation was paid in accordance with the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 which takes into account the age and monthly earnings of the worker in a case of death. An ex-gratia payment is made to affected families depending upon the magnitude of a mine accident.

(c) and (d) The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 was recently amended in August, 1995 to inter-alia, enhance the minimum amount of compensation payable under the Act for death and permanent total disablement. The monthly wage limit for determining the amount of compensation has also been enhanced.

Expected export-import turnover

*159. SHRI G.G. SWELL:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the expected export-import turnover in terms of dollars and rupee during the current year; and

(b) what are the other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) As per the latest available data for April-January 1995-96, exports are estimated at \$ 25488 million and imports at \$ 29544 million, in rupee terms exports are estimated at Rs. 84196 crores and imports at Rs. 97597 crores during the same period. Exports are projected to reach \$ 31.5 billion during the full year April-March 1995-96 while exports could be around \$ 35.4 billion.

The target set for the current year envisages an export growth of 18-20% in dollar terms over the previous year. Imports are as per requirement and hence no targets are fixed for imports.

Loss of Man-Power due to Strike

*160. SHRI THENNALA BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state the total loss of man-power in the labour sector during the last year due to various strikes, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): Labour Bureau collects information on mandays

lost due to strikes and lockouts. A statement showing state-wise mandays lost due to strikes in the public and private sector during 1995 is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Mandays Lost due to Strikes in Public and Private Sector During 1995 (Provisional) By Selected States

State/U.T.	Mandays lost (in thousands)
Andhra Pradesh	1,003
Bihar	25
Delhi	1
Goa, Daman & Diu	99
Gujarat	240
Haryana	44
Karnataka	156
Kerala	148
Madhya Pradesh	96
Maharashtra	508
Orissa	54
Pondicherry	0
Punjab	331
Rajasthan	198
Tamil Nadu	617
Uttar Pradesh	60
West Bengal	297
Others	56
TOTAL	3,933

O = Nil or less than 500

Source: Labour Bureau, Shimla.

Accidents in Mines

1004. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the accidents which took place in various mines during the last two years and the number of workers killed in each of them; and

(b) the main reasons for these accidents and the remedial steps being taken for the safety of the workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) The details of the accidents which took place in various mines during the last two years and the number of workers killed therein is as follows:

Year	No. of Accidents	Persons Killed
<i>Coal Mines</i>		
1994	873	241
1995	901	224
<i>Non-Coal Mines</i>		
1994	307	86
1995	334	82

(b) These accidents mainly occurred due to rope haulage fall of Roof/sides, wheeled trackless vehicles, irruption of water misfires, fall of persons from height/into depth and other heavy earth moving machinery.

Provisions for safety of persons employed in mines are contained in the Mines Act, 1952, and the Rules and Regulations framed thereunder. The safety laws are kept under constant review and amended from time to time. The Directorate General of Mines Safety also issues guidelines in the form of circulars to the Managements for improving safety measures. These provisions are required to be complied with by the managements. The officers of the Directorate General of Mines Safety inspect the mines periodically to oversee the status of compliance with the safety provisions, and to take action as provided for under the Mines Act, 1952, in case of default. Besides the legislative measures, the Government is promoting a number of other initiatives, such as:

- (i) Conference of Safety in Mines;
- (ii) Self-regulation by management;
- (iii) Workers' participation in Safety Management;
- (iv) Tripartite and Bipartite reviews at various levels;
- (v) Training of workpersons;