

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether any discussion is being held with Central Trade Unions on this issue; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A group of Ministers (GOM) has been constituted *to look Into* the issue of SICA recast. The GOM has not finalized its recommendations for consideration of the Government.

(c) and (d) The issue of industrial sickness was discussed in the 35th and the 36th Session of the Indian Labour Conference (ILC) of which Central Trade Union Organisations are also members. The Government has been informed of the conclusions of the ILC.

Amendment of Payment of Bonus Act

1346. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to amend the Payment of Bonus Act to enlarge the coverage and ceiling limit; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL) (a) and (b) The proposal to amend the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 so as to raise the eligibility limit and calculation *ceiling* is under consideration of the Government.

Labour Committee

1347. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any measure has been taken to stop delay *in* disposing of labour disputes or any Committee was constituted;

(b) if so, the details thereof or whether the Committee has submitted its report;

(c) if so, whether all the recommendations have been implemented after the acceptance of the same; and

† The Original of the question was received in Hindi.

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(d) if not, by when the rest of the recommendations are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) No committee has been constituted by the Ministry of Labour to stop delay in disposing of pending labour disputes in the *Central Government* Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts. The following steps are taken to ensure speedy disposal of pending cases:—

- (i) Expeditious steps are being taken to fill up the vacant posts of Presiding Officers in Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts after observing all necessary formalities.
- (ii) The need to reduce pendency of Industrial Dispute cases in the Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts is also impressed upon the Presiding Officers by taking this up with them from time to time.
- (iii) A meeting of all Presiding Officers was held on 6-4-99 in which the need for expeditious disposal of pending cases was impressed upon all *concerned*.
- (iv) A departmental manual of procedures for use of Presiding Officers in CGITs has been prepared. It is expected that this manual would be useful for the Presiding Officers to dispose of cases quickly.
- (v) Keeping in view the norms prescribed for the disposal of industrial disputes and their pendency, a proposal to open more CGIT-cum-Labour Courts has been *incorporated* the Ninth Five Year Plan, the criteria being the concentration of industries and number of industrial disputes in a region. Five new CGIT-cum-Labour Courts, one each at Lucknow, Nagpur, Chennai, Bhubaneswar and Hyderabad have been opened.

Women Labour in Construction Work

1348. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

DR. RAJA RAMANNA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the use of women labour in construction and road works continues to be cruel and women are exploited by contractors as cheap labour;

(b) if so, whether this could be stopped and replaced by more human methods perhaps using modern technology; and