

sion of the Labour Ministers' Conference held in July, 1980 that the minimum wages should be reviewed and revised, if necessary once at least in two years or on a rise of 50 points in the Consumer Price Index Number, whichever is earlier.

Change in Labour Policy

2286. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Premier Employers' Organisation from both public and private sector have sought a radical change in the existing labour policy with due emphasis on discipline, effective labour participation in industry and wage linked to productivity and to improve overall performance;

(b) whether it is a fact that certain suggestions have also been made by the all India organisation of Employers Federation of India;

(c) if so, to what extent the Government have accepted the above recommendations; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Council of Indian Employers have forwarded a copy of the Joint Memorandum on Labour Policy as submitted to the Prime Minister. The constituents of the Council of Indian Employers are:—

1. All India Organisation of Employers (AIOE)
2. Employers' Federation of India (EFI) and
3. Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE)

(c) and (d) The memorandum which has been received recently is under examination.

Losses suffered by the Steel Authority of India Limited

2287. SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the losses suffered by the Steel Authority of India Limited during the last three financial years, year-wise; and

(b) to which of the following causes are these losses attributable:—

(1) unremunerative sale prices of Steel products.

(2) under production;

(3) obsolescence of plant and process; and,

(4) ineffective working of management and workers?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) The working result of Steel Authority of India Limited during the last three years are given below:—

	(Rs. in crores)
	Profit(+)/Loss(-)
1982-83	(-) 105.76
1983-84	(-) 214.53
1984-85	(+) 4.24

(b) The causes for losses are attributable to a number of factors including increase in costs of production which were not covered by price increases, low capacity utilisation because of constraints of coking coal of the right quality, deterioration in other raw materials, inadequate power supply from public utilities, obsolete technology and ageing of the equipment. Steps are being taken to remove these various constraints.

There is always room for better performance by management and workers to jointly increase production and productivity. Towards this end, steps

are being taken to promote a new work culture in the steel plants.

Representation by truck loaders of Giridih Colliery Bihar

2288. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on the basis of a mass representation by truck loaders of Giridih Colliery of Bihar his Ministry has made a departmental inquiry into their conditions; and

(b) if so, what are the findings thereof and what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJALIAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The enquiries made by the Regional Labour Commissioner (C) Dhanbad and the Assistant Labour Commissioner (C), Hazaribagh regarding working conditions of the truck loaders in Giridih Project reveal that they are not the employees of the Management of Giridih Project of Central Coal Fields Ltd., but they are self-employed persons. The purchasers of coal who come along with their trucks for lifting the coal sold by the colliery management utilise such truck loaders as are available at the loading point for loading coal in their trucks and make payments to them at negotiated rates.

Employment of bonded labourers at the Rajasthan Canal Project

2289. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the employment of bonded labourers through contractors at the Rajasthan Canal Project and of their miserable plight; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJALIAH): (a) Attention of the Government has been drawn to the report which appeared in the press recently.

(b) Necessary information has been called for from the Government of Rajasthan and on receipt would be laid on the Table of the House.

Review of Contract Labour Act, etc.

2290. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any critical review of the Contract Labour Act and the Inter-State Migrant Workmen Act so as to know the legal loopholes in their application and the extent to which these Acts have become redundant and required a fresh look to make them more stringent, useful and meaningful; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJALIAH): (a) and (b) A batch of amendments to the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 are being processed. A Seminar on Migrant Workers was organised by the Labour Ministry recently. Recommendations of the Seminar are awaited.

Licences for import of dry fruits

2291. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDEWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of import licences issued for the import of dry fruits along with the names of persons/parties to whom such licences were issued and also the dates of issue of such licences;

(b) whether it is a fact that most of these licence holders sell their yearly quota at a premium ranging from 150 per cent to 250 per cent to other per-