

strike or lockout. State Governments Have been advised to streamline and strengthen the industrial relations machinery in order to promote industrial harmony and production and avert work stoppages.

At the First Meeting of their Standing Committee in September, 1980, the Labour Ministers were generally agreeable to use the good offices of the Central Government, wherever necessary, in cases of prolonged strikes/lockouts. However, after some discussion there was a consensus that State Governments might adopt the law for regulating conditions of service as obtaining in the State of Kerala to deal with such cases.

#### **Wage limit for grant of Scholarships**

273. SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the wage limits fixed for the grant of scholarships to the dependents of the employees out of the Central Iron Ore Welfare Cess have not been reviewed, keeping in view the increase in the level of wages;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Regional Welfare Cess Advisory Committee on Iron Ore Mines has recommended that the wage limit be revised to Rs. 1000/- wage base per month; and

(c) if so, the action Government have taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. VENKATA REDDY): (a) to (c) This wage limit was last revised from Rupees Five hundred to Rupees six hundred in November, 1977. The Central Advisory Board of the Iron and Manganese Ores Mines Labour Welfare Fund in its meeting held in September, 1980 has recommended that while this wage limit be raised to Rupees one thousand per month, but

in the actual disbursement of scholarships, first priority should be given to workers whose wages are below Rupees six hundred per month. The recommendation is under examination.

274. [Transferred to the 25th November, 1980].

275. [Transferred to the 1st December, 1980].

#### **Amendment to the Industrial Dispute Act**

276. SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under their consideration to amend the Industrial Disputes Act so as to ban strikes in essential units; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) and (b) There is no proposal at present to ban strikes in essential units.

#### **Submission of report of ensuring environmental protection**

277. SHRI KRISHNA NAND JOSHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Committee set up by Government to recommend measures for ensuring environmental protection has submitted its report; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the Report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI C. P. N. SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The report was submitted to the Prime Minister on September 15, 1980.