

(c) whether it is a fact that the employees have requested Government to take over the newspaper; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The employees of New Delhi unit of the *National Herald* resorted to a tool-down strike from 10th March, 1979. From 15th March, 1979 the management had declared a lockout. In the Lucknow unit of *National Herald* there was strike for some time in July, 1978. There was also lay-off of workers from 11th to 25th January, 1979. Thereafter the management has declared indefinite lockout from 6th March, 1979.

(b) Payment of arrears of wages, timely payment of wages in future, lifting of lockout, payment of wages during the lay-off and lockout periods and reinstatement of suspended workers are the demands of the workers. The labour conciliation machineries of the Government of U.P. and Delhi Administration are taking steps to resolve the dispute.

(c) It has been suggested on behalf of the workers that the management of the company might be taken over by Government to tide over the present difficulties.

(d) Government had set up an investigation committee under section 15 of the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act to go into the working of the undertaking and the committee's report is with Government.

Payment to the workers of Engineering Project India Ltd. working at Bokaro

*238. SHRIMATI SAROJ KHAPARDE:

SHRI LADLI MOHAN NIGAM:

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that workers of Engineering Projects India Ltd working at Bokaro for the last four to five years are still on purely temporary basis and on consolidated pay whereas other workers of the company are mostly on superannuation contract;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these workers are not given overtime although they work for more than eight hours;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Engineering Project (I) scales are not given to the workers; and

(d) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Engineering Projects (India) Ltd. (EPI) is basically a contracting firm engaged in the business of securing and implementing turn-key projects. All the workers of the company who work on project sites at Bokaro and elsewhere are on temporary establishment for the duration of the concerned projects and are paid on a consolidated basis. Only the regular employees of EPI continue till superannuation.

(b) Ordinarily EPI do not engage their workers on over-time basis beyond the regular working hours. In exceptional cases, however, when a worker is required to work beyond the prescribed working hours, he is suitably compensated.

(c) The persons employed on temporary basis till the completion of a project are given consolidated salary taking into account their qualifications and experience as also the comparable salary being given to similar employees locally. From 1st Jan., 1979, however, EPI have decided to give to such employees consolidated basic salary plus dearness allowance.

(d) In view of (a), (b) and (c) above no steps need be taken by the Government in the matter.