

LABOUR be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question 168 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd March, 1979 and state:

(a) what is the number of strikes and lockouts in different industrial undertakings during 1976 and 1977;

(b) the number of mandays lost in those strikes and lockouts; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to promote industrial harmony during that period?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR

(SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: (a) and (b) A statement showing the number of strikes and lockouts and the number of mandays lost therein during the years 1976 and 1977 is attached.

(c) The situation was under constant watch of the Government. The Industrial Relations Machinery both at the Centre and in the States continued to make efforts to minimise work stoppages through informal mediation, conciliation, adjudication or arbitration as necessary under the existing statutory provisions and voluntary arrangements.

Statement

Number of strikes and lockouts and number of mandays lost therein during 1976 and 1977.

Year	Number of Strikes	Number of lockouts	Manday lost (in million) due to	
			Strike	Lockouts
1976	1241	218	2.80	9.95
1977 (P)	2,691	426	13.41	11.91

(P) Provisional and based on the returns/ information received in the Labour Bureau till 2-11-1978.

Services under 'Essential Category'

1672. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to review their policy with regard to the services falling under the 'essential category';

(b) whether Government have taken any decision in the matter; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR
(SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) to (c) There is no central law, at present, on essential services. However, the Industrial Relations Bill, 1978 introduced in the Lok Sabha on August 30, 1978 classifies 12 industries as "essential services". It is

intended that the Joint Committee of the two houses of Parliament, when appointed, may consider this as well as other provisions of the Bill.

Regional collective security

1673. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Asian countries have proposed a system of regional collective security;

(b) if so, what are the names of the countries which have proposed such a system; and

(c) what is the reaction of the Government of India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS (SHRI SAMARENDRA
KUNDU): (a) to (c) In response to a request by the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on the India