

Statement

Statistics of total earnings before deductions and the corresponding average daily number of employees in factories are collected under the Payment of Wages Act, 1936. The Act covers all employees earning less than Rs. 400 per month, earnings being defined to include basic wages, cash allowances, annual bonus, arrears and money value of concessions. Based on these statistics, index numbers of money earnings for workers in factories are calculated on base 1961=100. These index numbers when deflated by the All India Consumer Price Index numbers for Working Class (base shifted to 1961=100) give the corresponding index numbers of real earnings. Index numbers for the years 1962, 1966, 1969, 1970 and 1971 are given below :—

Year	All India Consumer Price Index number for Working Class; (Base shifted to 1961=100)	Index numbers of money earnings (base 1961=100)	Index numbers of real earnings (base 1961=100)
		Factory workers	Factory workers
1962	103	106	103
1966	146	139	95
1969	169	170	101
1970	178	110	101
1971*	183	187	162

*Provisional]

Use of Laser Beam Device in Defence Services

*676. SHRI RISHI KUMAR MISHRA:

SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY :

DR. V. B. SINGH :

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA

SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have put into use the Laser Beam device for accurate range findings and target seeking ;

(b) if so, what have been the results thereof and whether Government propose to extend the use of Laser Beam for communication purposes ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM):(a) to (c) It will not be in the public interest to disclose information on this subject.

Industrial Relations Bill

*677 SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to make certain changes in the Industrial Relations Bill, in view of serious labour unrest and lock-outs throughout the country ; and

(b) whether Government propose to have a strike holiday for the period of Fifth Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY) : (a) The comprehensive legislation under consideration will attempt to bring about better industrial relations will create an atmosphere more conducive to greater production and productivity.

(b) Government will welcome and encourage all efforts designed to eliminate work-stoppages in the country.

Foreign secretary's visit to Tamil Nadu in Connection with the Agreement on Kachchativu Island

*678 SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that the Foreign Secretary, Shri Kewal Singh, has recently visited Tamil Nadu, in connection with the Agreement concluded with Shri Lanka on Kachchativu Island; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The visit was in the context of Central Government's policy of consulting with Tamil Nadu Government and keeping them informed of the progress of talks with Government of Sri Lanka on the question of the boundary in the historic waters between the two countries and related matters.

Makrana Marble Quarries

*679. SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA

SHRI RISHI KUMAR MISHRA:

SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY :

DR. V. B. SINGH :

SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :