

**Concern over high pendency of industrial disputes leading to
encouragement of violations of labour laws**

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): Sir, I rise here to draw the attention of the Government as well as this House to an alarming phenomenon of increasing pendency of the industrial disputes throughout the country, both in the Central sector and State sector. If we see, even in the Central sector alone involving only 70 lakh workers, who represent hardly one per cent of the country's non-agricultural workforce and around ten per cent of the organized sector workforce, the pendency of the cases has increased and it is now 13,165. If you see the last three-four years, the figure is hovering from 12,000 to 15,000. It means that the issues are coming up and not getting settled. There are Central Government Industrial Tribunals in place. As per the Government statement, in many places the Presiding Officer is not there. It is surprising that even in my State Kolkata, in the Central Government Industrial Tribunal, Presiding Officer and Secretary to the Court are not there since the last ten months. This is the situation in a place like Kolkata, where industrial disputes are quite high. In Dhanbad also, the Presiding Officer is not there. In a place like Ahmedabad, Nagpur, Chandigarh, particularly, the areas where there are so many industries, the posts of Presiding Officer is lying vacant leading to rising of pendency, and its impacts reflect on the industrial relation in the workplace, and, finally, increasing industrial unrest and affecting productivity. I think, the Government must give a serious thought on this issue. It is not just failure. If we say that it is a failure—that the vacancy is there and they are not getting proper man—it is okay. But it is not like that. If you see the expenditure pattern of the respective Government—let me tell you about the Central sector only—at least, more than 45-50 per cent of the expenditure allocated by the Budget for the industrial relations and enforcement of labour laws has been lying unspent every year since the last five years. I am not particularly pointing out a particular Government. The issues of industrial relations and enforcement of mechanism involve the Labour Commissioners and CGITs. The Budget allocated is remaining unspent to the tune of 40-50 per cent and that.. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Time over. *...(Interruptions)...* I can't allow. *...(Interruptions)...* It will not be recorded.

MS. DOLA SEN (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY (West Bengal): I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI K. K. RAGESH (Kerala): I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU (Telangana): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI ALI ANWAR ANSARI (Bihar): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

**Proposed shifting of All India Radio's language bulletin
units to the State Capitals**

SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA (Punjab): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, thank you. All India Radio broadcasts several central News Bulletins in prominent Indian Languages. These News Bulletins are still prime source of information for majority of population. The system of keeping regional News Bulletins of languages in State capital news units and Central News Bulletins at its headquarter in Delhi was evolved and approved by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the first Information and Broadcasting Minister of the country. During his tenure, central News Bulletin in 6 Languages, Assamese, Dogri, Kashmiri, Malayalam and Punjabi were started from Delhi when it was almost impossible to get regional language persons. Mobility in the country was comparatively very low and there were no permanent posts of newsreaders.

As per reply given in Lok Sabha by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Broadcasting, Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore to an Unstarred Question No. 2159 on 15.03.2017, "Indian language news bulletins are being shifted; and shifting of four news units *i.e.* Assamese, Odia, Malayalam and Tamil have already been ordered."