

## Industrial Relations

7.66 At the aggregate level there was a decline in the number of strikes and lockouts during 1999 compared to the previous year 1998. The number of strikes declined to 540 during 1999 from 665 during 1998. The number of lockouts also came down to 387 in 1999 from 432 in 1998 (Table 7.16). The reduction in strikes and lockouts was more prominent in public sector and central sphere compared to the private sector and state sphere. The Government's proactive role, seeking solutions through involvement of social partners in tripartite fora for arriving at policies impeding on labour interests was responsible for bringing down the outbreak of strikes and lockouts.

7.67 The mandays lost on account of strikes and lockouts, however, increased from 22.1 million in 1998 to 26.8 million in 1999. Mandays lost due to strikes increased by 1.27 million

whereas mandays lost due to lockouts increased by 3.45 million between 1998 and 1999. In the central sphere there was a sharp decline in the mandays lost by 6.38 million between 1998 and 1999. In contrast, the state sphere recorded an increase of 11.10 million mandays lost. In public sector also there was a sharp decline in mandays lost by 6.40 million during 1999 but in case of private sector mandays lost increased by 11.12 million during the same period.

7.68 Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat experienced maximum instances of strikes and lockouts in 1999. The industries facing the highest incidence of strikes and lockouts were coal, mining, engineering and cotton textiles. Wage and wage related issues were the important reasons behind the strikes along with personal issues and retrenchment related matters.

**TABLE 7.16**  
**Industrial relations scenario**

Year	Strikes		Lockouts		Total	
	Number	Mandays lost (in million)	Number	Mandays lost (in million)	Number	Mandays lost (in million)
1996	763	7.8	403	12.5	1166	20.3
1997	793	6.3	512	10.7	1305	17.0
1998	665	9.4	432	12.7	1097	22.1
1999 (P)	540	10.6	387	16.2	927	26.8
2000 (P)*	265	2.2	242	8.9	507	11.1

\* Upto Sept.      P : Provisional