

## Industrial relations

7.47 There was a secular decline in the number of strikes and lockouts during 2000-2004 (Table 7.20). The total number of strikes and lockouts went down 13.6 per cent from was 552 in 2003 to 477 in 2004, with a sharper decline in strikes than in lockouts. While the decline in the total number of mandays lost on account of strikes and lockouts by 6.39 million between 2003 and 2004 indicated an improvement in industrial relations, the number of mandays lost only on account of strikes actually increased. Most of these strikes and lockouts were in private sector establishments on account of wages and personnel issues.

7.48 The number of strikes and lockouts during 2005 (January to September) was 340. During this period, the State of West Bengal experienced maximum instances of strikes

and lockouts, followed by Tamil Nadu and Gujarat. The industrial disturbances were concentrated mainly in the textile, engineering, chemical and food product industries.

7.49 The importance of reforming the labour laws to enhance productivity, competitiveness, employment generation and general economic reforms hardly needs emphasis. A beginning has already been made in this direction. During the current financial year, The Payment of Wages (Amendment) Act, 2005 (41 of 2005) proposing to enhance the wage ceiling from the present level of Rs.1,600 per month to Rs.6,500 per month and empowering the Central Government to further increase the ceiling in future by way of notification, has already been put into effect from November 9, 2005. The Factories (Amendment) Bill 2005 proposing to provide flexibility and safety to the employed women, and amendment of Labour Laws (Exemption from Furnishing Returns and

**Table 7.20 : References to BIFR as on March 31, 2005**

Sl. No.	Status	Private	Central PSUs	State PSUs	Total PSUs	Total
	1	6,480	107	188	295	6,775
	2	1,377	17	66	83	1,460
	3	14	0	1	1	15
A	4	5,089	90	121	211	5,300
	DISPOSALS					
	5					
	(i) as non-maintainable	1,455	9	33	42	1,497
	(ii) as multiple registered	218	0	0	0	218
	6					
	(i) by BIFR	593	24	20	44	637
	(ii) by AAIFR/SC	17	1	0	1	18
	7	368	6	11	17	385
	8					
	9	1,234	31	41	72	1,306
	Dropped now	80	4	2	6	86
B	Total (5+6+8+9)	3,597	69	96	165	3,762
C	PENDING					
	10	47	1	0	1	48
	11	110	3	3	6	116
	12	823	8	12	20	843
	13	412	6	1	7	419
	14	21	1	2	3	24
	15	42	2	3	5	47
	16	37	0	4	4	41
	<b>C=A-B</b>	<b>1,492</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>1,538</b>

Source : BIFR, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance.

<b>Table 7.21 : Strikes and lockouts</b>						
<b>Year</b>	<b>Strikes</b>		<b>Lockouts</b>		<b>Total</b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Mandays lost (in million)</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Mandays lost (in million)</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Mandays lost (in million)</b>
1999	540	10.62	387	16.16	927	26.79
2000	426	11.96	345	16.80	771	28.76
2001	372	5.56	302	18.20	674	23.77
2002	295	9.66	284	16.92	579	26.58
2003	255	3.21	297	27.05	552	30.26
2004	236	4.83	241	19.04	477	23.87
2005(Jan-Sep)(P)	155	2.83	185	4.47	340	7.30
<b>P – Provisional, Total may not tally due to rounding off</b>						
<b>Source : Labour Bureau, Shimla</b>						

Maintaining Registers by Certain Establishments) Act, 1988 to simplify the

procedure for maintaining registers and filing returns are under active consideration.