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11 Jan. 1980

Accidents lead to law reform

An outcry by industrial organisations against Government handling of job safety and workers' compensation has prompted the Labour Department to draft amendments to the present law.

This was announced yesterday by the Assistant Commissioner for Labour, Mr David Lin, after two organisations and relatives of two men killed recently on a Tsun Wan construction site probed the department for more details.

The changes in the law are expected to go before the Legislative Council later this year.

Mr Lin said a big move to promote industrial safety would be by stepping up its factory inspectorate under a five-year programme.

The organisations inquiring into the Tsun Wan acci-

dent were the Hongkong Christian Industrial Committee and the Hongkong and Kowloon Cement and Concrete Construction Trade Workers Union.

Mr Lin's reply stressed that worker's safety had always been a primary concern of the factory inspectorate and every accident causing death or serious injury was investigated.

If breaches of regulations are found, the contractors or persons concerned would be prosecuted, he said.

But he added: "I am sure ... that enforcement through inspection or prosecution alone will not drastically reduce accidents unless everyone, from top management down to the front-line workers, also takes an interest and plays an active part in industrial safety.

"A number of accidents might have been avoided had both the contractors and the workers themselves been safety conscious and taken heed on safety devices, such as the use of safety belts while working at heights."