

I.C.U.P.

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Action needed on industrial safety

The Government has been urged to review problems associated with industrial safety and regulations governing workers' compensation.

The call came from the Industrial Relations Institute which pointed out that industrial accidents have reached a serious level.

It said in 1978, such accidents numbered 39,242, involving 141 deaths. These figures increased to 44,913 and 154 respectively last year.

The institute said the Government's efforts in promoting industrial safety have not been as effective as anticipated.

It said industrial safety is the joint responsibility of the Government, employers and their workers.

The institute suggested several ways to improve industrial safety and solve the problem of worker's compensation:

- The Government should strengthen its industrial safety training programme, improve its promotional efforts so as to make workers more aware of the importance of industrial safety.
- Workers should pay attention to their safety at work and regularly check their tools and equipment.
They should report to their bosses or supervisors when they come across unsafe installations and they should complain to the Labour Department if their employers neglect their reports.
- Factories or construction companies with a workforce in excess of 50 should have a supervisor in charge of industrial safety.
- Employer and employees should set up an industrial safety group comprising representatives from both sides, to regularly review and improve safety installations.
- The Government should implement a programme to provide immediate compensation to victims of industrial accidents and their relatives.
- The Government should introduce legislation to compel employers to buy industrial insurance for their employees.