

EXERCISE 6

In India, no one section of the community seems to miss an opportunity to go on strike. Almost everyday we read in the newspapers of some one or the other going on strike, quite often for the flimsiest reason one can imagine.

Strike is a legitimate weapon of the worker to get better pay, shorter hours of work and better working conditions when all the other methods have failed. But to resort to strike because some action has been taken

on an erring colleague or because some headstrong subordinate was not treated with respect, is meaningless. Unfortunately in India the tendency to go on strike seems to be fairly wide-spread not only among workers but also among others. The taxi-drivers go on strike if the police asks them to fix meters. Students go on strike because they feel the question is too stiff for them to answer. Slum-dwellers go on strike because they have been asked to move into new tenements built for them.

Strikers are the last to realise that they are the ultimate losers in most cases. Their gains are only apparent. Increased wages may not benefit them unless they are related to increased productivity. When an employer is forced to increase his workers' wages, without a corresponding increase in production, as is most often the case, his cost of production goes up and this in turn increases the price of his product. So, though the worker may get more, he will have to spend more to get his minimum requirements and this is what is happening today.

(About 240 words)

Precis Writing

In India, people are always ready to go on a strike even for a tiniest of reason.

They find it easy to stage a walkout in order to get their conditions fulfilled and the practice is more prevalent in India. Whether they are workers, taxi drivers or students, everyone considers it their right to hold protests for a reason as small as police asking taxi drivers to fix their meters. However, little do they know that their efforts are futile as the increase in workers' pay without any improvement in their productivity would force employers to raise the prices of products as well. This, in turn, would make things more difficult for the workers to

make their ends meet. And unfortunately, they are facing the same situation today.

Title: Indian protests and their demands.