

trade in major foodgrains through public agencies. Complete take over of the wholesale trade of all foodgrains is not contemplated at present as the procurement and distribution carried out through public agencies have helped to stabilise the prices and regulate trade. Moreover complete take over of wholesale trade will require an elaborate organisation and huge finances.

RECOVERY OF PROVIDENT FUND DUES

930. SHRI KALYAN ROY :
SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION/ श्रम और पुनर्वासि मंत्री be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 917 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th November, 1970 and state :

(a) whether a Recovery Committee was set up by the Coal Mines Provident Fund to realise the outstanding dues from the coal mine owners which is increasing every year and if so, the amount of outstanding dues during 1968-69, 1969-70 and 1970-71 (till April) :

(b) whether it has been decided to abolish the Recovery Committee and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what progress has been made to realise the outstanding dues from the colliery employers ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION/ श्रम और पुनर्वासि मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (SHRI BAL-

GOVIND VERMA) : The administration of the Coal Mines Provident Fund is the concern of the Board of Trustees, Coal Mines Provident Fund and is not the direct concern of the Central Government. The Coal Mines Provident Fund authorities have reported as under :—

(a) The Recovery Committee was set up by the Board of Trustees, Coal Mines Provident Fund in February, 1968. The amount of outstanding Coal Mines Provident Fund dues at the end

of the following years was as shown below :—

- (a) 1968-69 .. Rs. 4.76 crores
(b) 1969-70 .. Rs. 7.00 crores
(c) 1970-71 .. Rs. 6.87 crores
(up to 31-12-70)

(b) The Committee was abolished by the Board of Trustees in December 1970 as most of the defaulting employers who were allowed to pay the Coal Mines Provident Fund dues in instalments by the Recovery Committee failed to pay not only the instalments but also the current dues.

(c) The outstanding dues amounting to Rs. 7,00,21,191/- at the end of 1969-70 were reduced to Rs. 6,87,44,628/- by the end of December 1970.

INCREASE IN THE COAL PRICES

931. SHRI R. P. KHAITAN : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES/ इस्पात और खान मंत्री be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently granted a rise in the coal prices to the coal industry; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES/ इस्पात और खान मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

FRESH WATER RESOURCES IN RAJASTHAN

932. SHRI SUNDAR MANI PATEL :
SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES/ इस्पात और खान मंत्री be pleased to state :

(a) whether a survey was conducted recently by the Geological Survey of India in Rajasthan for locating fresh water resources;