

**THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION/ श्रम और पुनर्वासि मंत्री (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR):**

(a) and (b) Legislation on industrial relations, by and large, is already uniform. However, the question of future policy on this and other related subjects, and such further legislation as may be found necessary in that context, is under Government's consideration in consultation with the various interests concerned.

**PAYMENT OF VARIABLE DEARNESS ALLOWANCE TO COAL MINE WORKERS**

**1187. SHRI KALYAN ROY:**

**SHRI N. K. KRISHNAN:**

**SHRI MONORANJAN ROY:**

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION/ श्रम और पुनर्वासि मंत्री be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that most of the coal mines which have received certificates from the Regional Labour Commissioners to the effect that they have implemented the Recommendations of the Coal Mines Wage Board, are refusing to pay Variable Dearness Allowance (Rs. 1.86 per day) as per the Cost of Living Index;

(b) the amount of Variable Dearness Allowance which is being paid in the coal mines at present;

(c) whether Government propose to cancel the above certificates for open violations of the Recommendations of the Coal Mines Wage Board; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION/ श्रम और पुनर्वासि मंत्री (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR):**

(a) and (b) Out of 326 collieries for which Certificates have been issued by the Regional Labour Commissioners, 74 are paying Variable Dearness Allowance at Rs. 1.86 per day; while the remaining are paying at rates ranging from Rs. 1.17 to Rs. 1.62 per day.

(c) This is under examination.

(d) Does not arise.

**REPORT OF AGRICULTURE PRICE COMMISSION**

**1188. SHRI M. K. MOHTA:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE/ कृषि मंत्री be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in its recent report, the Agricultural Prices Commission, while commenting upon the projections made in the Fourth Plan in regard to the stipulated annual growth of foodgrains production, have expressed that the estimated growth of 5.6 per cent in foodgrains will not be achieved and that it would not be possible to do away with imports even after 1971 as contemplated by Government;

(b) if so, the salient features of the report made by the Agricultural Price Commission; and

(c) the reaction of Government in regard thereto?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE/ कृषि मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE):** (a) and (b) The Agricultural Prices Commission, in its Report on Price Policy for Kharif Cereals for 1970-71 Season, expressed the view that it would be rash to postulate a growth rate significantly exceeding 4% per annum for the output of foodgrains in the next few years. The Commission further observed that with a growth rate of 4%, an imbalance between the demand and domestic production of foodgrains would continue, although it would gradually diminish from nearly 4 million tonnes to 0.4 million tonnes by 1974.

(c) Efforts are being made to achieve the target envisaged under the Fourth Five Year Plan. During 1969-70, the foodgrains output increased to a new record level of 99.5 million tonnes, showing an increase of 5.8% over the output of the previous year. The produce is expected to increase further to 105-106 million tonnes during 1970-71, i.e., by 5.5% to 6.5% over the output of 1969-70. Steps are being taken to further intensify the various programmes for the expansion of production.

It is envisaged that concessional imports of foodgrains would be stopped after 1971.