

TARGET FOR PRODUCTION OF WHEAT, RICE AND SUGAR

1016. DR. (MRS.) MANGLADEVI TALWAR : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) the target for production of wheat, rice and sugar during the next year; and
- (b) the total demand of the country in this regard and the measures adopted by Government to meet the shortage, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : (a) No separate targets of production of wheat and rice have been fixed for next year. However, the target of production of foodgrains as a whole for the year 1969-70 is 105 million tonnes. For Sugar no target of production has been fixed for the next year. The production of sugar will depend on the production of sugarcane in the factory areas and the quantum of sugarcane which becomes available to factories for sugar production.

(b) The demand for foodgrains like that for other commodities is elastic. One type of foodgrain can also be substituted by another to a certain extent. It is, therefore, difficult to assess the demand in the country for wheat and rice separately or even for all foodgrains taken together at any particular point of time. The shortage can be overcome only by increasing production. Steps have been taken to increase the production of foodgrains in the country through various developmental schemes. Till then, it may be necessary to import some minimum quantities from abroad.

2. The distribution of sugar will, as at present, be regulated on the basis of availability of supplies during the year.

STRIKE BY GOA DOCK LABOUR UNION

1017. SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Goa Dock Labour Union began 'go slow' tactics in February last which developed into a total strike in May, 69 and continued for about seven weeks;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the loss suffered as a result thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to redress their grievances, if any, at the 'go slow' stage and thereafter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD) : (a) to (d) The barge crew members of the Goa Dock Labour Union went on a partial strike with effect from 16-2-69 and this developed into a total strike on 14-5-69, mainly over a dispute as to what should be the effective hours of work for these workmen and the overtime etc. allowances they are entitled to, considering that they have to be on the barges for all twenty four hours of the day. The "appropriate" Government under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 in respect of this dispute, is the Goa Administration. However, the Labour Ministry had been taking all possible steps to settle the dispute and as a result of these efforts and with the concurrence of the Goa Administration, the dispute was amicably settled on 19-7-69.

The strike did not affect the operation of the Minerals & Metals Trading Corporation as vessels were diverted and I loaded from other Indian ports. No information is available regarding loss, if any, incurred by private shippers. The quantum of wages and allowances to which the barge crew are entitled for the period 16-2-69 to 14-5-69 has been agreed to be referred for arbitration.

DHEMOMAIN COLLIERY IN ASANSOL

1018. SHRI KALYAN ROY : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

- (a) the steps that have been taken by Government to reopen Dhemomain Colliery in Asansol; and
- (b) whether the workmen have been paid their legal dues and retrenchment benefits ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD) : (a) On a dispute raised by the Colliery Mazdoor Congress and the Colliery Mazdoor Sabha over the closure of the mine, conciliation proceedings were held but the same ended in failure. The Government referred