

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI JAI-SUKHLAL HATHI) : (a) No, Madam. Out of the nine working collieries in Chanda District two have implemented the recommendations fully and seven have done so partially.

(b) The management has pleaded financial difficulties.

(c) Efforts continue to be made to persuade the management to implement the recommendations.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE :

The Minister has stated that 7 coal mines in the Chanda district have failed to implement the recommendations of this Wage Board. It is more than a year when the Wage Board Award was given. I would like to know what recommendations have been implemented by these collieries and what recommendations have not been implemented. In view of the great discontent and unrest among the colliery workers there, what effective steps the Government propose to take so that the recommendations would be implemented as early as possible.

SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI : Out of the nine working collieries two collieries, the Umrer Colliery and the Sillewara Colliery have implemented fully. The other seven have implemented partially.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE : To what extent.

SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI :

They have not implemented the recommendations of the Wage Board regarding the variable DA. They are not paying the prescribed VDA of Rs. 1/11 with effect from 1-10-67 and Rs. 1/47 from 1-4-68, pushing allowance, sick and first-aid allowance, etc. The Conciliation officers are trying their best to see that they are implemented but in addition to this district, we have also complaints from other colliery areas and I have called a meeting on the 12th of this month of the Standing Committee on Coal for this purpose.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE:

The Minister referred to the payment of wages according to the Wage Board Award but this Award also has created new categories of labour and I would like to know from the Minister whether at least the recommendation regarding the categorisation of labour in the different correct categories has been made

by any of these collieries in the Chanda district. My information is that many collieries have not implemented that recommendation also and in view of this, I would like to know from the Minister whether he is going to enforce this recommendation through the proper Government machinery and see that there is proper categorisation of the workers.

SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI : I will find out if there are complaints about proper categorisation. I have no information on that.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE : I will furnish the proper information to the Minister.

SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI : I will take it.

SHRI D. THENGARI : In view of the practice of the employers not to implement the Wage Board Awards, has the Government come to any firm conclusion that penalty should be imposed in case of non-implementation and whether the employers have been informed that some action will be taken against them in case they do not implement within a specific time?

SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI : At present the Wage Boards are non-statutory and therefore the suggestion can be taken into consideration when it is decided to make them statutory.

IMPORT OF SOYABEAN OIL

*283. SHRI Y. ADINARAYANA REDDY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the quantity of Soyabean oil imported during each of the years 1965, 1966, 1967 and 1968?

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THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) :

Year	Quantity (Tonnes)
1965	58,350
1966	31,275
1967	87,119
1968	25,044

SHRI Y. ADINARAYANA REDDY: May I know whether the import of Soyabean oil has not harmed to a great extent the farmers who are producing groundnuts in the country and whether the price of groundnut has gone down so much that the farmers are not trying to sow groundnut this year?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question was put and answered only recently.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: This point was also made.

284. [The questioner {Shrimati Vidya-wati Chaturvedi} was absent. For answer, vide col. 1812 infra.]

*285. [The questioner (Shri Sundar Singh Bhandari) was absent. For answer, vide col. 1813 infra.]

MOBILE POST OFFICES

*286. SHRI D. THENGARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cities where mobile post offices facilities are provided in the country;

(b) whether there is any proposal to extend this facility to some more cities in the near future; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) 9.

(b) Yes.

(c) A Mobile Post Office each has been sanctioned for Bangalore and Podha and they are expected to be commissioned during the current year.

SHRI D. THENGARI: What are the cities that will be covered by this scheme during the Fourth Plan period?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: The details have not yet been worked out but we are trying to gauge the need of the various towns and naturally our effort will be to provide this service as far as possible in the main towns particularly.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : May I know the principle or basis upon which it is decided to have mobile post offices in the different cities?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: The mobile post office is based....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

ARTIFICIAL SCARCITY OF PULSES ETC.

*273. SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Food Minister in a communication addressed to the All India Foodgrains Dealers Association has alleged that traders had failed to take delivery of pulses etc. at Howrah goods-shed in March 1968 which resulted in creating artificial scarcity and high prices in the Calcutta Markets; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether any reply has since been received from the Association and if so, what are the salient features of the reply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Yes, Madam. A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

The salient features of the Federation's letter dated 19th April, 1968 are as follows:

1. Restrictions on the movement of wheat may be relaxed in view of the bumper crop, the handling of which will require the combined efforts of both the Government agencies and the trade.

2. The arrivals of wagons containing pulses were not heavy in the month of March. There was no congestion during that month. The association of