

†[THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNA-SAHEB SHINDE): (a) The action of the Madhya Pradesh Government in regulating movement of pulses outside Madhya Pradesh was not in accordance with the accepted policy of free movement of pulses reiterated at Chief Ministers' Conferences. The State Government was, therefore, advised to follow the policy of free movement of pulses.

(b) Information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha as soon as it is received]

BAJRA CROPS AFFECTED BY ERGOT

*604. SARDAR NARINDAR SINGH BRAR: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to compensate those cultivators whose bajra crops were damaged by ergot; and

(b) whether the acreage of hybrid bajra crops is proposed to be raised in the next season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): (a) No.

(b) Yes. During 1967-68, it was planned to cover 10.77 lakh acres during the kharif and 1.50 lakh acres during the rabi-summer season under hybrid bajra. For 1968-69, the target has been tentatively fixed at 28.77 lakh acres for the kharif season after discussion with the State Governments. The target for rabi-summer season of 1968-69 is yet to be finalised. The cultivation of this crop during 1968-69 would, however, be discouraged in the fields infested by ergot to avoid its recurrence.

AGRICULTURAL TASK FORCE FROM CANADA

*605. SHRI SURJIT SINGH ATWAL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Canada has recently sent a special Agricultural Task Force to India to explore the possibilities of Canadian help in the field of agriculture and food production and to streamline the distribution machinery; and

(b) if so, whether the Canadian experts have started their work; and if so, when they are likely to complete their assignment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The members of the Task Force have visited several States and have had discussions at various levels. They will be leaving India by December 20 and will formulate their report thereafter.

धनबाद की खान में भूख हड़ताल

*606. श्री दत्तोपन्त ठेंगड़ी : क्या श्रम तथा पुनर्वासि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि धनबाद की खान में 424 कर्मचारी भूख हड़ताल पर हैं;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि उक्त खान गैस और पानी से भरी हुई है जिसके कारण मजदूरों के मर जाने की आशंका है; और

(ग) यदि हाँ तो इस विषय में सरकार द्वारा क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ?

†[HUNGER STRIKE IN DHANBAD MINE

*606. SHRI D. THENGARI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the 424 employees are on hunger strike in the Dhanbad Mine;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the said Mine is full of gas and water because of which death of the workers is apprehended; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken by Government in the matter?]

श्रम तथा पुनर्वासि मंत्री (श्री जयसुखलाल हाथी) : (क) से (ग) जी हां, मेसर्स भोवरा कनकनी कोलियरीज (पी) लि०, डावरा, कुसुडा, जिला धनबाद की पूतकी कोयला खान के 424 खनिकों ने 23 अक्टूबर से 2 अक्टूबर, 1967 तक भूमि के नीचे काम रोकें हड़ताल की। पूतकी कोयला खान गैसीय है और हड़ताल के समय भारी वर्षा के कारण इसमें पानी भर गया। कोयला खान विनियमों में गैसीय खानों में होन वाले काम में सबंध में विशेष सावधानी बरतने की व्यवस्था है। हड़ताल में दौरान कोई जती नुकसान या और कोई दुर्घटना नहीं हुई। केन्द्रीय औद्योगिक सबंध मशीनरी के अधिकारियों ने स्थिति पर कड़ी नजर रखी और काम-चोर्छों हड़ताल बिना घात 27 अक्टूबर, 1967 को समाप्त हो गई।

[THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. 424 miners of the Pootkee Colliery of M/s. Bhowra Kankanee Collieries (P) Ltd, P.C. Kusunda, District Dhanbad, resorted to a stay-in-strike underground from October 23 to October 27, 1967. The Pootkee Colliery is gassy and at the time of strike it was flooded due to heavy rains. Coal Mines Regulations prescribe special precautions for the working of gassy mines. There was no loss of life or other mishap during the period of strike. The Officers of the Central Industrial Relations Machinery kept a close watch over the situation and the stay-in-strike was called off unconditionally on October 27, 1967.]

SUPPLY OF SUGAR AND WHEAT ETC. AT CONTROLLED PRICES

*607 SHRI JAGAT NARAIN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

† [] English translation.

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of sugar in open market has been fixed at Rs. 5 per kilo in Delhi;

(b) whether this is in consonance with Government's policy to check the rising prices;

(c) whether sugar, wheat and wheat products at controlled rates are given to the public for marriages or other social functions, if so, in what quantity; and

(d) if not, what steps Government propose to take to mitigate the difficulties of Government servants and other low income group people, who are already hard pressed, in obtaining the above articles at controlled rates for marriages and other social functions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): (a) and (b) Government procures and allots to the State Governments for distribution to the public 60 per cent of the sugar produced by the factories. The factories are free to sell the remaining 40 per cent in the open market at the prevailing prices. This arrangement is designed to increase production and thus in the long run help check prices.

(c) and (d) The quantity of foodgrains allotted for marriages etc. are shown in the statement placed on the Table of the Sabha. As the levy sugar is supplied for meeting the domestic requirements, the Delhi Administration has to discontinue allotment of sugar for such purposes.

STATEMENT

The maximum quantity of foodgrains allotted for marriages or other social function at present is as under —

| | Wheat/ Atta | Rice | Suji | Maida |
|----------------------------|----------------|------|------|-------|
| <hr/> | | | | |
| (In Kilograms) | | | | |
| <i>Marriage of a girl</i> | | | | |
| (i) Non-rice eaters | 35 | 10 | 10 | 25 |
| (ii) Rice eaters | 25 | 20 | 10 | 25 |
| <i>Marriage of a boy :</i> | | | | |
| (i) Non-rice eaters | 20 | 5 | 10 | 15 |
| (ii) Rice eaters | 15 | 10 | 10 | 15 |
| <i>Death ceremony :</i> | | | | |
| (i) Non-rice eaters | 7 | 3 | 5 | 5 |
| (ii) Rice eaters | 15 | 5 | 5 | 5 |