

Mining Industry in respect of categorisation and wage structure of workers.

(b) Bilateral discussions were held between the management and the unions and the management agreed to implement the Wage Board's recommendations and to refer the differences, if any, to Regional Labour Commissioner (C), Hyderabad, for conciliation. During the conciliation proceedings, the management agreed to refer all the issues to arbitration of the Chief Labour Commissioner and agreed to the suggestion of the Regional Labour Commissioner for forming an implementation Committee. The management also requested the unions not to precipitate matters.

(c) As a result of the strike, 19,59,422 man-hours were lost and there was a loss of production of 1,50,000 tonnes of coal. The value of production lost is Rs. 56,74,500.

WAGE BOARD FOR COAL INDUSTRY

429. SHRI SURJIT SINGH ATWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the representatives of the Ministries of Steel, Mines and Metals, Railways, Irrigation and Power and Finance were associated with the examination of the report of the Wage Board for coal industry, before final decision of Government was announced ; and

(b) if so, what is the outline of the discussions held ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI) : (a) Departmental discussions were held with the concerned Ministries/Departments, as usual.

(b) It is not usual to disclose internal discussions between Departments of the Government. Government's decisions on the Wage Board's report were announced in July, 1967 and copies of the Resolution were placed on the Table of the Sabha on the 24th July, 1967.

DEVELOPMENT LEVY AND BONUS TO STATES

430. SHRI S. D. UPADHYAYA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Central assistance in the form of development levy or development bonus has been paid by the Central Government to any State Government at the time of procurement of rice and wheat from the State Governments ; and

(b) if so, what are the details of such payment ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : (a) A scheme for payment of incentive bonus for despatch of rice and wheat from surplus to deficit States were formulated for 1966-67 crop. A similar scheme for making rice available to Central Pool has been introduced against 1967-68 crop.

(b) An amount of Rs. 30 lacs has been paid to Andhra Pradesh Government against 1966-67 crop under the scheme so far.

M. P. GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TEAK FORESTS, ETC.

431 SHRI S. D. UPADHYAYA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any request has been received by Government from the Government of Madhya Pradesh in regard to Central assistance for development of Teak forests, Palm forestry and afforestation programme for quick growing species ; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal and the decision of the Central Government in the matter ?

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

(b) The Chief Minister and the Minister of State for Forests, Madhya Pradesh have requested the Government of India to provide assistance for the following forestry development programmes :—

- (i) Rs. 20 lakhs for rehabilitation of teak forests on 10,000 acres.
- (ii) Rs. 10 lakhs for Farm Forestry.
- (iii) Raising of subsidy under the scheme of "Quick Growing Species" from the present rate of Rs. 200 per acre to Rs. 250 per acre and Rs. 50 per acre in the shape of loan.

The State Government's proposal will be examined at the time of Annual Plan consideration in the forestry sector.

FOODGRAIN ALLOCATION TO DEFICIT STATES

432. SHRI G. MURAHARI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of foodgrains available at present for allocation to deficit States ;

(b) the expected shortfall of foodgrains during the next two months ; and how it is proposed to be made up ; and

(c) the quantity of foodgrains expected to be imported during the next two months ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE) : (a) to (c). Allocations to the States are made based on the total availability with the Centre each month from imports and internal sources. The quantities that are likely to be available with the Government of India for allocations in the months of December and January are estimated to be between 1.2 and 1.5 million tonnes both from imports and internal sources. It is expected

that this quantity would be sufficient to meet the normal demands of the public distribution system. The quantity that is likely to be available out of imports during January and February, 1968 will be between 1.1 and 1.2 million tonnes.

PILFERAGE OF ARTICLES SENT BY POSTAL AUTHORITIES

433. SHRI G. MURAHARI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any complaints regarding pilferage of articles sent by parcel post ;

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken to bring to book the postal employees indulging in such pilferage ?

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

(b) Whenever any such complaint is received, thorough investigations are made. If any official is found at fault, deterrent action is taken against him.

LATE DELIVERY OF EXPRESS LETTERS

434. SHRI G. MURAHARI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any complaints regarding late delivery of Express delivery letters have been received ; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken in this matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes. Complaints regarding late delivery of Express Delivery letters are occasionally received.

(b) Every such complaint is promptly enquired into and the official at fault is suitably dealt with. Steps have been taken from time to time to im-