

calculated, on the basis of an assumed requirement of 16 ozs. per head per day, that the State would be deficit to the extent of 23.6 lakh tonnes during 1968. The basis of this calculation has not been accepted by the Government of India.

(b) The requirement of Government distribution of foodgrains in West Bengal will be met through Central supplies and local procurement within the State.

(c) From 1-11-1967 to 31-5-1968 about 2.59 lakh tonnes of rice, including paddy in terms of rice, had been procured in West Bengal.

(d) The main reasons for the shortfall in procurement in West Bengal have been :

- (1) Poorer Aman yield than what was expected earlier;
- (2) Political troubles affecting enforcement of cordoning in a crucial period by large scale diversion of police to the maintenance of law and order;
- (3) Litigations and injunctions on a number of levy orders; and
- (4) High prices of paddy and rice prevailing in the open market.

PAYMENT OF DEARNESS ALLOWANCE TO THE INDUSTRIAL WORKERS

287. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the recommendations of the Union Government with regard to the payment of dearness allowance to the industrial workers in accordance with the corrected indices of the cost of living have so far been implemented; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI) : (a) Government has issued a Resolution dated 29th March, 1968 regarding correction of the linking factors for the cost of living indices for Kanpur, Calcutta, Bangalore and Mysore but they have not made any recommendations therein with regard to payment of dearness allowance to industrial workers in accordance with the corrected indices of cost of living; this is a matter for settlement between the employers and workers.

(b) Does not arise.

LOCK-OUT AND CLOSED INDUSTRIAL UNITS IN WEST BENGAL

288. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of industrial units in West Bengal which are remaining in lock-out and closed; and

(b) what is the number of the workmen laid off during the period from January to May, 1968?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI) : (a) and (b) A statement is attached. (See below)

STATEMENT

(i) No. of industrial units in West Bengal where there was a lock-out as on 13-7-1968.	21
(ii) No. of industrial units in West Bengal under closure as on 13-7-68.	64
(iii) Number of workmen laid off—	
Month	Number laid-off
January, 1968	7,052
February, 1968	26,537
March, 1968.	16,178
April, 1968	13,407
May, 1968	3,382

NOTE.—With the re-opening of some of the closed units some of the laid-off workers would have resumed employment.

COOPERATIVE FARMING

289. SHRI R. P. KHAITAN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the acres of agricultural land covered at present by Cooperative farming in the different States and Union Territories; and

(b) whether there is any difference in the yield per acre of the various commodities produced through cooperative farming and private farming?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.