

According to the management, it was not a lock-out but a strike by the mining staff as well as supervisory officials.

(d) 700 workmen were affected by the work stoppage.

(e) The Officers of the Central Industrial Relations Machinery held a series of discussions with the parties and finally brought about a settlement on the 12th April, 1971. As a result, work in the Colliery has started from the 13th April, 1971.

**Report of Agricultural Prices Commission
for the Year 1971-72**

495. SHRI DASARATHA DEB :
SHRI NIHAR LASKAR :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE (KRISHI MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Agricultural Prices Commission has submitted its report for the year 1971-72 ;

(b) if so, the gist of the suggestions thereof ; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (KRISHI MANTRALAYA MEN RAJYA MANTRI) (SHRI ANNASAHIB P. SHINDE) : (a) to (c). Presumably, the reference is to the Report of Agricultural Prices Commission for Rabi Foodgrains for 1971-72 season. The main suggestions made in this Report are that (a) the target for the procurement of wheat during the 1971-72 marketing season be fixed at 4 million tonnes, and (b) the procurement prices for wheat be fixed uniformly for all the States at Rs. 68 per quintal for the indigenous red variety and Rs. 74 per quintal for the indigenous common white and the different Mexican varieties. The Government have accepted the recommendation at (a). As regards recommendation (b), it has been decided

that the procurement prices for all varieties of wheat other than indigenous red will continue to be at Rs. 76 per quintal. As regards the indigenous red variety, it has been decided that the State Government will fix its price in consultation with the Central Government provided it is at least Rs. 2 per quintal lower than the prices of the standard variety.

The Commission have also recently submitted Reports on Price Policy for Sugarcane, Cotton and Jute as also on Minimum Support Prices for Kharif Cereals for 1971-72 season. These Reports are under consideration of Government.

**Procurement Price of Wheat during Rabi
Season**

496. SHRI P. GANGADEB :
SHRI N. S. BISHT :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE (KRISHI MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have rejected the recommendation of the Agricultural Prices Commission for a lower procurement price for wheat during the current rabi season ; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the rejection ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (KRISHI MANTRALAYA MEN RAJYA MANTRI) (SHRI ANNASAHIB P. SHINDE) : (a) A statement giving the summary of the recommendations of the Agricultural Prices Commission and Government's decision thereon is attached.

(b) The prices were announced after consulting the Chief Ministers of State. It was decided not to reduce the prices as recommended by Agricultural Prices Commission as this would have adversely affected procurement and farmer's incentive to increase production.