

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. BISHI :

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.

*Statement*

*Procurement price of wheat recommended by the A P C and the prices fixed by Government for 1971-72 marketing season*

	(Rupees per quintal)	
	Price as recommended by A P. C	Prices as fixed by Government
Indigenous Rcd	Rs. 68 00	Rs 71 00 to 74 00
Mexican Indigenous (Common white)	Rs 74 00	Rs 76 00

**Strike by Madras Dock Workers**

497 SHRI P GANGADEB  
SHRI S M KRISHNA ,

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRAM AUR PUNARVAS MANTRI) be pleased to state

(a) whether the Madras Dock workers had gone on an indefinite strike in April 1971 ,

(b) if so, whether the Shram Mantri worked hard to settle the issue between the representatives and the authorities ,

(c) the main reasons for the strike , and

(d) whether Government have accepted their demands ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRAM AUR PUNARVAS MANTRI) (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) (a) The dock workers were on strike from the 8th April, 1971 to the 25th April, 1971.

(b) Due to intervention by the Shram Mantri, a settlement was reached on 25.4.71 at New Delhi between the parties according to which the strike was called off from 26.4.71.

(c) Implementation of the Arbitration Award and payment of arrears by 14.4.71, full D A for listed workers and 21 days minimum guaranteed wages for listed workers were the more important demands ,

(d) According to the settlement, the authorities employing the workmen have agreed to implement the Award, and pay the arrears to the workmen by May 31, 1971. Besides, the listed workers of Ore Section will be given minimum guaranteed wages for 16 days in a month with effect from 1st May, 1971

**Setting up of Mini-steel Plants**

498 SHRI P GANGADEB  
SHRI NIHAR LASKAR  
SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES (ISPAT AUR KHAN MANTRI) be pleased to state

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up five mini steel plants in the public or private sector ,

(b) if so, the capacity of each of these plants ,

(c) how far it will reduce the gap between the demand and production of steel , and

\* The price in each State has been fixed as recommended by the State Governments concerned.