

(a) whether it is a fact that the bonus dispute for the year 1982-83 for MITCO workers of Bihar is still pending before the Labour Department of Bihar ;

(b) if so, the details of the dispute and the stand taken by the Management ;

(c) the steps taken by the MITCO for the early solution ; and

(d) whether Government would advise arbitration by the Labour Ministry in this matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The bonus for 1982-83 had been paid to the workers by MITCO at the rate of 9.5% but a section of workers disputed this and demanded bonus at the rate of 20%. The higher payment asked for was not in accordance with the provisions of Payment of Bonus Act. The issue has been taken up by the superintendent of Labour, Government of Bihar, Giridih, where it is still under consideration.

(c) MITCO is in constant touch with the Superintendent of Labour, Government of Bihar and has also furnished such information as required by them from time to time to enable them to take quick decision.

(d) Since the bonus dispute is pending with the Government of Bihar, it may not be advisable at this stage to refer it to arbitration.

Instalments of D. A. Released to Central Government Employees from 1980 to 1984

1016. SHRI ASHFAQ HUSSAIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of instalments of D. A. fell due to Central Government Employees from 1st January, 1980 to 30th June, 1984 ;

(b) the number of instalments released to the Central Government Employees during this period ; and

(c) the consumer price index as on 1 January, 1980 and also on 30 June, 1984 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA) : (a) and (b) During the period from 1st January, 1980 to 30th June, 1984 payment of twenty six instalments of Dearness Allowance to Central Government employees became due for consideration and twenty three instalments were sanctioned.

(c) The monthly Consumer Price Index figures for the month of June, 1984, have not yet become available. However, the 12-monthly average of Consumer Price Index as on 1st January, 1980 was 349.75.

Opening of Raw Material Banks at Different Handloom Centres in UP

1017. SHRI ASHFAQ HUSSAIN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state whether in view of hike in prices of cotton yarn particularly in course count, Government propose direct the National Handloom Development Corporation to open immediately the raw material banks at different Aandloom Centres in U. P. particularly at Gorakhpur where the problem is acute ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : Since the National Handloom Development Corporation is a nacent organisation and will take some time to open yarn depots at differeut pockets of handloom concentration, Government of U. P. have directed the U, P. Handloom Corporation to open immediately about 25 yarn depots in different handloom centres in U. P. including Gorakhpur.

Board of National Handloom Development Corporation

1018. SHRI ASHFAQ HUSSAIN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the names of the members of the Board, Managing Director, Chairman and the Chief Executive of the National Handloom Development Corporation ?