

(b) if so, the subjects discussed and the conclusions arrived at ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (KRISHI MANTRALAYA MEN RAJYA MANTRI) (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a). Yes, Sir.

(b) A meeting of the Central Land Reforms Committee was held on April 16, 1971. Chief Ministers of Bihar, Maharashtra, Punjab and Revenue Minister of Tamilnadu (on behalf of the Chief Minister, Tamilnadu) attended as special invitees. The following points were discussed at the meeting :

1. *Level of ceiling*

It was noted that in a number of States the level of ceiling was still on the high side. However, since the data available with the Committee was considered inadequate it was decided that before any decision with regard to lowering of ceiling was taken further information should be collected from the various States.

2. *Unit of application of ceiling*

With regard to the unit of application of ceiling, it was decided that the manner in which ceiling should be made applicable to the aggregate area held by all the members of a family should be decided after detailed information has been received about the working of the provisions of the existing legislation in the various States.

3. *Exemptions*

It was agreed that the exemptions from ceiling should be curtailed to the minimum in the light of local conditions.

Chief Ministers Conference for fixing Foodgrains Prices

505. SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE (KRISHI MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether a conference of Chief Ministers was held recently for the fixation of prices of foodgrains ; and

(b) if so, the broad results of the deliberations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (KRISHI MANTRALAYA MEN RAJYA MANTRI) (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a). A Chief Ministers' Conference was held on 17-4-1971 to discuss the price policy for rabi foodgrains for 1971-72 season.

(b) A statement is attached.

Statement

Recommendations of the Chief Ministers' Conference held on 17-4-1971.

1. The target of procurement of wheat for 1971-72 marketing season, recommended at 4 million tonnes, was accepted.
2. In order to provide continued incentive to the farmer, most of the States felt that there was no justification for reducing the procurement price.
3. The issue prices should not be increased in view of the need to protect the poorer sections of the society.
4. The need for reviewing the functioning of public agencies handling foodgrains to work on the principle of minimum costs, was emphasized.
5. It was agreed to eliminate intermediaries as far as possible and foodgrains procured directly from the cultivators. The services of the cooperatives for opening procurement centres in the village to be utilised to the maximum extent possible.
6. In view of the rapid build-up of stocks, the need for expediting construction of storage godowns, was emphasized. It was agreed that the State Governments will give maximum possible assistance in acquiring land for the purpose of storage construction works.

7. It was agreed that necessary planning of movement be done in consultation with the Ministry of Railways to ensure that procurement and movement go on smoothly during the Rabi season.
8. Considering the improved availability of foodgrains, it was felt that the remaining restrictions on the movement of wheat in the statutorily rationed areas of Bombay, Calcutta and the Asansol-Durgapur industrial complex should be removed.

Inclusion of Head-Load Workers in Food Corporation of India within the Purview of Trade Union Act.

506. SHRI A. K. GOPALAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRAM AUR PUNARVAS MANTRI) : be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government propose to include the head-load workers who are working in the food Corporation of India within the purview of Trade Union Act ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof ;
- (c) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the appeal made by the Union leaders in regard to this ; and
- (d) if so, when the decision is likely to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRAM AUR PUNARVAS MANTRI) (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) to (d). There is nothing in the Trade Unions Act, 1926, which precludes Head load workers of F.C.I. from forming a trade union and getting it registered under the Act subject to the fulfilment of the conditions prescribed in this behalf. The question of Government taking action to include the workers within the purview of the Trade Unions Act does not therefore, arise. Government is not aware any of representation.

Non-payment of Wages to Workers by Coal Mines Owners In Asansol Coal Belt, West Bengal

507. SHRI ROBIN SEN : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRAM AUR PUNARVAS MANTRI) be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the alleged non-payment of workers' wage dues by the Coal-mine owners in Asansol Coal belt, West Bengal ;
- (b) the reasons for the non-payment of dues ;
- (c) the total number of the coal companies who have not paid the wage dues ; and
- (d) whether any steps have been taken by the Government to force the managements of the coal companies to clear the wage dues ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRAM AUR PUNARVAS MANTRI) (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a). Yes, Sir.

(b) Reasons for non-payment are stated to be accumulation of coal stock, financial stringency, labour trouble etc.

(c) Complaints have been received in respect of the following collieries :—

1. Manoharbahal Colliery.
2. South Jayramdanga Colliery.
3. Nimcha Colliery.
4. Victory (MJ) Group Colliery.
5. Mithapur Colliery.
6. Selected Samla Colliery.
7. Radhamadhavpur Colliery.
8. Ghusik Colliery
9. Muslia Colliery.