

(ख) कृषि योग्य परती भूमि को भूमिहीनों में बांटने और उक्त भूमि को और अधिक उप-जाऊ बनाने के लिए केन्द्रीय सरकार ने राज्य सरकार को क्या निर्देश जारी किये हैं और इस सम्बन्ध में केन्द्रीय सरकार ने राज्य सरकार को कितनी सहायता दी है और डग बारे में भावी नीति क्या है ?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री(श्री अन्नासाहब पी० शिन्डे : (क) और (ख). जानकारी एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा पटक पर रख दी जायेगी ।

**Discontinuance of supply of 1/4 Litre Bottle of Milk by Delhi Milk Scheme**

519. SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE (KRISHI MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether Delhi Milk Scheme has stopped the supply of 1/4 litre bottle of milk to the public ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) whether any representations have been received to restore its supply and the decision taken on it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (KRISHI MANTRALAYA MEN RAJYA MANTRI) (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) The supply of milk in 1/4 litre bottles was temporarily suspended by Delhi Milk Scheme from 18-1-1971.

(b) The change was made for the sake of operational convenience. The demand for supply of milk in quarter-litre bottles is much less as compared to 1/2 litre bottles. Difficulties arose in procuring 1/4 litre bottles. Change over of packing from 1/2 litre bottles to 1/4 litre bottles also presented operational difficulties.

(c) Yes. After considering these representations, it has been decided to restore supply of milk in quarter-litre bottles. Necessary arrangements are being made by Delhi Milk Scheme to purchase additional quantity of 1/4 litre bottles and supply will be

resumed as soon as these bottles are received.

**Strike by Coal Miners of National Coal Development Corporation's Bhurkunda Colliery, Bihar**

520. SHRI JAGADISH BHATTACHARYYA : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRAM AUR PUNARVAS MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether the coal miners of National Coal Development Corporation's Bhurkunda Colliery in Hazaribagh District (Bihar) went on a strike recently, if so, the details thereof ;

(b) the main demands of the workers ; and

(c) whether any measures have been taken to meet their demands ; if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRAM AUR PUNARVAS MANTRI) (SHRI R. K. KHADIKAR) : (a) to (c). 709 piece-rated miners of Bhurkunda Colliery of National Coal Development Corporation Ltd. went on strike from the first shift of 15-3-71 demanding immediate supply of miners' safety boots. Following mutual discussions settlement between the parties, the strike ended from the second shift of 18-3-1971. After settlement, the management has supplied 1050 pairs of Hunter type boots and 400 pairs of approved types to the underground workers of the Colliery.

**Loss incurred in Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi**

521. SHRI JAGADISH BHATTACHARYYA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES (ISPAT AUR KHAN MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) the total loss incurred by the Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi till now ;

(b) the reasons for the same and the steps taken by Government to avoid the loss ; and

(c) the total number of officers working in the Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi in the scale of more than Rs. 15 per month ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (ISPAT AUR KHAN MANTRALAYA MEN RAJYA MANTRI) (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) : (a) The cumulative loss incurred up to the 31st March, 1970 is Rs. 58.90 crores. The estimated loss during 1970-71 is Rs. 16.00 crores.

(b) In the initial years of production, losses in a project of this size and type are inevitable due to heavy investments and a long gestation period. To a certain extent, the losses incurred by Heavy Engineering Corporation can also be attributed to slow build-up of production due to a combination of factors, including unsatisfactory industrial relations. The heavy burden of interest, depreciation and overheads have also contributed to these losses.

A number of steps have been and are being taken over a wide front to improve planning and production control, install objective-oriented programmes, improve the efficiency of management and the productivity of workers. As a result of these measures, the performance of Heavy Engineering Corporation is expected to improve significantly over the next two years.

(c) 67.

**Loss of Cotton Produce Due to Slump in its Price in Gujarat**

522. SHRI D. D. DESAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE (KRISHI MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether cotton growers of Gujarat have lost heavily as cotton prices have slumped, despite a smaller all-India crop of about 53 lakhs bales ;

(b) whether it is due to introduction of a new set of tightened credit restrictions by the Central banking authorities and the present policy of the Government towards cotton ; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government to ensure that Gujarat's cotton growing farmers are not discriminated and forced to sell their cotton at lower prices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (KRISHI MANTRALAYA MEN RAJYA MANTRI) (SHRI ANNASHAHIB P. SHINDE) : (a) In Gujarat, as well as in other cotton producing States, prices of cotton (lines) recorded sharp increases between September 1970 (the beginning of the current cotton season) and January, 1971. From February 1971, however, prices showed some fall. Despite this fall, the present prices are generally higher than those in the beginning of the season or at the corresponding period last year. The Economic Adviser's Index Number of Wholesale Prices for raw Cotton for the week ending 1st May, 1971 stood at 223.8, compared to the corresponding index 188.7 a year ago, thus showing a rise of about 19%.

(b) The fall in prices in recent months is due mainly to the withdrawal of the subordinated demand for cotton by cotton mills ; actual and prospective arrivals of imported cotton ; Credit restrictions imposed by the Reserve Bank of India and other price regulatory measures taken by Government.

(c) It is not correct to say that there is any discrimination against Gujarat's cotton growing farmers or forcing them to sell their cotton at lower prices. Whatever steps are taken are taken on the national level.

**Representation from MPs regarding grievances of workers of Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi**

523. SHRI DINESH JOARDER :  
SHRI A. K. SAHA :

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

(a) whether Government have received a letter from any Members of Parliament regarding the grievances of the workers of the Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi ;