

holding substantial stocks carried over from last year and the offtake from fair price shops is very poor on account of easy availability in the open market. Some of the reasons for non-achievement of targets of procurement recommended by the Agricultural Prices Commission are lower production in certain States than that anticipated at the time of the APC's recommendations, high prices and law and order problems (in the case of West Bengal).

(c) Yes, Sir.

Recommendations of Coal Wage Board

593. SHRI R. N. SHARMA : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRAM AUR PUNARVAS MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Wage Board for Coal Mining Industry recommended in February, 1967 for coal mine workers provisions for gratuity, increased quantum of earned leave with wages, introduction of casual leave with pay, House rent, minimum wages for the apprentices and deletion of attendance qualification from the quarterly bonus scheme ;

(b) the reasons why these recommendations have not been accepted by the Government so far ; and

(c) when Government propose to accept them ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRAM AUR PUNARVAS MANTRI) SHRI R. K. HADILKAR : (a) to (c). The need for a gratuity scheme has been accepted in principle. The proposal involves legislation and is being processed in consultation with the concerned Ministries/Departments. The question of deleting the minimum attendance qualification from the Quarterly Bonus Scheme is also being examined. Recommendation regarding increase in the quantum of earned leave, introduction of casual leave with pay and house rent allowance have not been accepted because of the additional financial burden involved. The recommendation regarding remuneration to apprentices and learners is being examined in all its implications.

Implementation of Recommendations of Wage Board for Coal Mining Industry

594. SHRI R. N. SHARMA :
SHRI ROBIN SEN :

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

(a) whether a large number of collieries have not implemented the Recommendations of the Wage Board for Coal Mining Industry ;

(b) the number of collieries which have paid the variable Dearness Allowance at the rate of Rs. 1.86 pcr day with effect from the 1st April, 1971 ;

(c) whether public sector undertakings were asked to purchase coal from such collieries which have implemented the recommendations of the Wage Board in full ;

(d) whether the Variable Dearness allow-at the rate of Rs. 1.86 per day has been paid only by the collieries of the National Coal Development Corporation and M/s. Tata Iron and Steel Co. Ltd ; and

(e) whether Government will consider making the recommendations of the Wage Boards statutory and their violation punishable with imprisonment ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRAM AUR PUNARVAS MANTRI) (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : (a) to (e). Information is being collected.

Displaced Persons in Tripura

595. SHRI DASARATHA DEB : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRAM AUR PUNARVAS MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether any steps are being taken to settle the displaced persons, who entered Tripura during 1970-71, outside Tripura ; and

(b) if so, the progress made so far ?