

differences persisted and what steps have since been taken to resolve the same?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) to (c). In continuation of several tripartite discussions held to avert the threatened strike in jute industry, a tripartite meeting was held at Calcutta on January 10-13, 1974. The demands that were discussed in this meeting inter-alia related to: (i) non-implementation of certain items of the West Bengal Jute Agreement of May, 1972, (ii) revision of piece-rates, time rates and grades/scales for certain categories of workmen, which could not be decided in the May, 1972 settlement, (iii) bonus, etc.

Following the tripartite discussion on January 10-12, 1974 an agreement was signed on 13-1-1974 by the Indian Jute Mills Association and three unions affiliated to the INTUC, HMS and NFIU before the State Industrial Relations Machinery. The other unions declined to sign the settlement on the ground that it fell short of their demands. A section of the workers went on strike from January 14, 1974. The strike in West Bengal Jute Industry was called off from 15th February, 1974. The strike by jute workers in other States has also been called off.

Report of Electricity Wage Guidelines Committee

6434. **SHRI N. K. SANGHI:** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Electricity Wage Guidelines Committee has submitted, its report to Government;

(b) if so, the major recommendations of the Committee regarding the principles to be followed for revision of wages, fringe benefits, perquisites and conditions of service; and

(c) the recommendations that have been accepted by Government; for implementation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) to (c). The Committee is still to submit its recommendations on wage revision, fringe benefits, perquisites and conditions of service; its recommendations concerning interim relief have already been brought to the notice of State Governments and Electricity Boards.

All India Working Class Consumers Price Index

6435. **SHRI SHANKERRAO SAVANT:** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No 61 on the 15th November, 1973 regarding All India Working Class Consumers Price Index and state:

(a) the procedure for preparing the consumer price index,

(b) the consumer price index in each month of October-December, 1973 and the first two months of 1974; and

(c) what are generally the reasons for the rise in consumer price index from month to month?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) This has already been explained in Statement No. IIII laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha in reply to Unstarred Question No. 4947 answered on 30-8-73.

(b) The available information is as follows:—

Oct.(73)	Nov.(73)	Dec.(73)	Jan.(1974)
254	259	260	264

(c) The rise is due to increase in the prices of items which enter into the compilation of the index.