

(a) whether attempts have been made to make the Wage Board Awards Statutory; and

(b) if not, how Government are going to tackle the serious problem of non-implementation of the various Awards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD): (a) and (b). The Wage Board system has been under review for sometime past. It is proposed to await the recommendations of the National Commission on Labour on this subject, before taking any decision.

#### Rise in Prices of Foodgrains

709. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :  
 SHRI A. SREEDHARAN :  
 SHRI K. LAKKAPPA :  
 SHRI P. M. MEHTA :  
 SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA :  
 SHRI D. N. TIWARY :  
 SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of the essential foodgrains went up in the month of May, 1969 in some of the States;

(b) if so, the extent of increase and the reasons for the same; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to bring down the prices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) Open market prices of rice registered a rise in large parts of the country during May, 1969. During the same period, prices of wheat showed a rise in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and the union territory of Delhi and that of jowar in the States of Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh and some parts of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) The all-India wholesale index for rice went up only by 3.1%. In the case

of wheat and jowar, the all-India wholesale index showed a fall of 2.72% and 0.9% respectively even though the prices showed a rise in a few States. The price fluctuations were mainly seasonal in character.

(c) The Government continues to supply foodgrains at reasonable prices through the public distribution system.

#### Employees affected by Strike

710. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that many employees, both permanent and temporary, who participated in the 19th September, 1968 strike have not yet been reinstated in his Ministry in spite of Government orders to this effect;

(b) if so, the reason for the same; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to see that all those temporary and permanent employees who participated in the strike are taken back ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) & (c). Do not arise.

#### Drought in Bihar

711. SHRI KARTIK ORAON:  
 SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD  
 MANDAL:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any communication has been received from the State Government of Bihar as to the drought conditions now prevailing in Chhotanagpur and Santhal Parganas;

(b) whether there is any proposal to send a Committee to study the drought conditions in this part of Bihar; and