

specific question, why it has not been included? What is the criterion for including various agricultural produce? Will it be considered for inclusion under the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: Sir, this is a new Scheme—a pilot scheme—we started in 1985 and we are reviewing it from year to year. Now, a Committee has been appointed under the chairmanship of an Additional Secretary in the Agriculture Ministry to review the Scheme and to extend to other areas. A number of suggestions were made by the State Governments and Member of Parliaments for the inclusion of certain crops. At present, cotton is not included. The items like rice, wheat, millets are now included. In future, the Scheme can be extended to other crops also.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: But what is the policy regarding priority of including a particular crop under insurance scheme?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: The criterion is the administrative structure. Whether it will be possible to administer, will depend upon the administrative structure, etc.

Consumer Price Index

*189. **SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS:** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to compute the Consumer Price Index (CPI) on the basis of actual availability of supplies at the fair price shops;

(b) the reasons for dropping the old method of computing on the basis of their admissibility; and

(c) whether this new method has been well received by Trade Unions; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The computation of Consumer Price Index proposed for computing Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers with 1982 as the base year on the basis of "availability" as against "admissibility" will be an improvement over the existing methodology, inasmuch as it would be closer to the actual consumption pattern.

(c) This is under discussion with Trade Unions both at the regional and at the national levels.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: Sir, about fifty million workers are seriously affected on account of the new revision of the Consumer Price Index now, taking 1982 as a base year. Taking 1960 as a base year, in 1977 on the basis of representations from workers, the Rath Commission was appointed and they found that seven points were lost for the workers. Now, taking 1982 as a base year, another Commission was appointed under Dr. Seal. On the basis of this Commission's recommendation, what has happened, my Lord, is that twenty two points were lost on the Consumer Price Index. This means, the total loss for the workers in this country is about Rs. 175 crores on DA item alone. I would like to know why Government has done it in this manner. Will Government revise it.....

AN HON. MEMBER: This is not the Court. Are you in the Court?

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: Sir, 'my Lord' also suits you. Presently the Government has taken into account mainly Taxi, TV and other items, to which weightage has been given. I would like to ask whether the Government will reconsider the matter and appoint a Committee where proper representation is given to the workers, industrialists and other persons on the revised present Consumer Price Index.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: It is not a fact that millions of workers have already been affected as a result of the new series because the new series has not been introduced. So the question does not arise at all.

As far as Rath Committee is concerned, I disagree with the hon. Member. There is no question of difference of 22 points because the Committee has not pointed that out.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: My second point is that the Central Trade Unions have given representations in this regard. Will the Government discuss the matter with the trade unions and will not implement the present recommendation?

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: We are discussing with the trade unions at various levels. In fact, at the central level, I had chaired the meeting myself when we had a meeting on 8.1.87. At regional level we had a meeting at Kanpur 20.2.87, at Madras on 3.3.87, at Bombay on 6.3.87, at Delhi on 18.3.87 and in Calcutta on 2.7.87. These are the meetings which had been held with the traditions. We are going to have another meeting of the national level very soon.

Safety Measures in Coal Mines

*190. **DR. V. VENKATESH† :**
SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Committee to study the implementation of safety measures in coal mines; and

(b) if so, the measures taken to check rising accidents in coal mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

The provisions regarding safety in mines as contained in the Mines Act, 1952, and the rules and regulations framed thereunder are enforced by the Directorate General of Mines Safety, and for this purpose, statutory inspections are conducted regularly. The

position regarding accidents (fatal as well as serious) in coal mines during the last 5 years is given below:-

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of fatal Accidents</i>	<i>No. of serious Accidents</i>
1982	158	1135
1983	156	1169
1984	160	1196
1985	176	1007
1986	180	1145

The Department of Coal, have indicated that they have taken the following measures to promote safety in coal mines:-

(i) Workers' participation in safety matters through regular meetings of safety committee, holding of tripartite safety meetings at the mine level, at area level and at corporate level.

(ii) Implementation of recommendations of various Conferences and Standing Committees, beside compliance with the provisions of the statute.

(iii) Training and re-training of workmen.

(iv) Special attention to support of roof and sides in underground mines, and introduction of safer technology of long-wall mining and open cast mining.

(v) Introduction of tele-monitoring system, tele-communication system, observance of mine safety weeks and organising special safety drives etc.

DR. V. VENKATESH: According to the statement of the hon. Minister, from 1982 upto 1986 the number of fatal accidents in the mining areas is on the increase. I am coming from Kolar Gold Fields. There, the