

(a) whether Government have decided to set up a machinery to revise the wage structure in the sugar industry; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR  
(SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY):

(a) and (b) A decision on this is expected to be taken shortly.

#### Coal stock falling

\*566. SHRI C. JANARDHANAN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether pit-head stocks of coal have been falling during the last two years; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI T. A. PAI): (a) and (b) At the end of October, 1971 the pit-head stocks of coal in the country were of the order of 8.36 million tonnes equal to about 43 days' production as against 5.10 million tonnes at the end of October, 1973 equal to 23 days' production,

and this is not considered abnormal. The accumulation of stocks of coal particularly in the Bengal-Bihar coal fields, two years ago, was due to the inadequacy of rail transport mainly because of the adverse law and order situation prevailing at that time in the eastern region.

#### Wages of Workers in Textile Mills

\*572. KUMARI KAMLA KUMARI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the minimum wage actually paid to men and women workers of the Textile Mills in India in different States and wages fixed by Government; and

(b) whether children below the age of fourteen are also engaged in any of these Mills?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR  
(SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY):

(a) A statement showing the available information is placed on the Table.

(b) Section 67 of the Factories Act, 1948, prohibits employment of children below the age of 14 years. The Act is administered by the State Governments and cases of its violation, if any, have to be looked into by them.

#### Statement

*Minimum Wages and Dearness Allowance in Cotton Textile Mills for the Lowest paid Operatives in Respect of 11 Selected Centers in the Country for the Month of October, 1973*

Sl. No.	Name of the Centre	Basic Wage (in Rs.)	Variable* Allowance	Interim increase	Total (in Rs.)
1	Ahmedabad . . . . .	38.00	256.12	..	294.12
2	Bangalore . . . . .	40.00	222.00	..	262.00
3	Baroda . . . . .	36.00	230.52	..	266.52
4	Bombay . . . . .	40.00	256.70	..	296.70
5	Coimbatore & Madras . . . . .	40.00	234.76	..	274.76
6	Delhi . . . . .	40.00	231.15	20.00(a)	291.15
7	Indore . . . . .	38.00	254.48	..	292.48
8	Kanpur . . . . .	38.00	202.14	26.69(b)	266.83
9	Sholapur . . . . .	34.00	235.82	..	269.82
10	Nagpur . . . . .	34.00	196.04	..	230.04
11	West Bengal . . . . .	36.17	209.18(c)	..	245.35

NOTE: \*The first Central Wage Board for Cotton Textile Industry recommended merger of 1/3th of average monthly dearness allowance in the first half of 1959 with the basic wage. The concerned mills at (i) Coimbatore and Madras, (ii) Delhi and (iii) West Bengal have raised the minimum basic wage in accordance with the said recommendations. Whereas in some other centres, although it is claimed that the 1/3th D.A. in the first half of 1959 has been merged with the basic wage, but for certain practical difficulties the amount is shown separately in the records. For the sake of comparability, the amount of merged D.A. has been shown in the column of variable dearness allowance.