

tion of the Wage Board's recommendations has commenced in 285 collieries accounting for nearly 82% of the workmen.

(b) Efforts to secure implementation in the remaining collieries, through persuasion and advice, continue to be made.

(c) and (d). The wage rates and service conditions of the colliery workers, prior to the appointment of the Wage Board in 1962, were based on the Majumdar award.

#### WELFARE CESS FOR IRON ORE MINE WORKERS

\*645. SHRI BABURAO PATEL : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that over Rs. 250 lakhs have been collected as welfare cess since 1963 for the welfare of 60,000 Iron Ore Mine workers in several States;

(b) whether out of the above amount, only Rs. 53 lakhs has been used as actual welfare of the workers and the rest of the amount is lying unutilized;

(c) whether the mine workers are denied relief because the above fund is controlled by the Central Government;

(d) when Government propose to release the funds for the purpose for which they were collected; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI S. C. JAMIR): (a) The total amount of cess collected from 1-10-63 (the date of inception of the Fund) to 31-3-67 was Rs. 168.93 lakhs and the expected income during 1967-68 is Rs. 65.30 lakhs.

(b) The expenditure up to 31-3-67 is Rs. 21.71 lakhs and during 1967-68 the expenditure is expected to be Rs. 25.29 lakhs.

(c) No.

(d) Various Welfare Schemes for the Iron Ore Mine Workers are in hand and efforts are being made to utilise the funds for the betterment of the miners.

(e) Does not arise.

#### ELECTION APPEALS IN SUPREME COURT

\*646. SHRI SHRI CHAND GOEL : Will the Minister of LAW be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to appoint some *ad hoc* judges in the Supreme Court Bench to dispose of the election appeals; and

(b) the number of election appeals pending in the Supreme Court at present ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW (SHRI GOVINDA MENON): (a) No, Sir.

(b) 61.

#### खुले बाजार में गेहूँ तथा चावल का विक्रय

\*647. श्री गं० च० दीक्षित : क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का विचार दिल्ली की भान्ति अन्य राज्यों में भी गेहूँ तथा चावल की खुले बाजार में विक्री की अनुमति देने का है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो कब ?

खाद्य, कृषि, सामुदायिक विकास तथा सहकार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री भ्रन्ना-साहिब शिन्डे) : (क) और (ख). जब कभी सम्बन्धित राज्य सरकारें अपने-अपने राज्यों के सांविधिक राशन व्यवस्था वाले क्षेत्रों में खुले बाजार में गेहूँ तथा चावल की विक्री की अनुमति देने का निश्चय करें तब भारत सरकार को इस सम्बन्ध में कार्यवाही करने के लिये अपनी सहमति देने का प्रश्न उठेगा।