

The following report of the Experts Committee on the necessity for revision of the Consumer Price Index Numbers for Calcutta working class was expected to be published some time ago by the West Bengal Government. But, for some unexplained reasons, its publication has been held back, presumably at the instruction from the Centre. The Report is significant not only because it points out the faulty calculations of the existing CPI which have affected the wage structure and dearness allowance rate in various industries for the last several years, but also because of its novel collection of the consumer price data. The Committee has suggested that trade unions in the collection of these data and also the taking into account of the objective situation—such as the prevalence of black-market—in this process. The very significant findings of the Committee and its important suggestions are published herebelow the text of this Report.

Dhananjayrao Gadgil Library



GIPE-PUNE-154969

—EDITOR

Unpublished
Report on
Faulty
Consumer
Price
Index
Numbers

REPORT
OF
THE EXPERT COMMITTEE
ON
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX NUMBERS
FOR
WORKING CLASS IN CALCUTTA
May 31, 1974

CONTENTS

Chapter

1. Introduction
2. The August 1939 Series
3. The 1944 Series
4. The 1960 Series

APPENDIX

Weighting Diagram and Base Prices of the August 1939 series.

Results of Jagaddal Labour Enquiries by the Indian Statistical Institute.

On Alternative Approaches to the derivation of the linking Factor.

Views of Employers' Representatives.

Views of Employees' Representatives.

Chapter I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Origin

1.1.1. Strange though it may seem, a very large number of workers in Calcutta industrial area, including those employed in the jute industry, still have their dearness allowances calculated on the basis of a working-class Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Calcutta Centre with base nearly 35 years old, at August 1939.