

### **Welfare Scheme for the Industrial Workers**

4347. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any Welfare Scheme for the industrial workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have introduced Group Insurance Scheme, for workers and all the workers come under the purview of Employees State Insurance Scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (b). The Government has framed the ESI Scheme which provides for medical care and payment of certain cash benefits to the industrial workers of the country in the contingencies of sickness, maternity etc. The scheme is applicable to the persons employed in power-using factories employing 10 or more persons and non-power using factories/establishments employing 20 or more persons and drawing wages not exceeding Rs. 3,000/- p.m. Welfare Schemes such as Health, Housing, Education and Recreation etc. are being implemented by the Government for the Welfare of Beedi workers and Mine workers engaged in Beedi establishments and mining.

(c) and (d). A Group Insurance Scheme has been introduced with effect from 1.4.1992 for Beedi workers only. It is applicable to such Beedi workers who are in the age group of 18 to 60 years

and are holding genuine identity cards and are not subscribing towards Employees Provident Fund. The premium for the Scheme is paid in equal shares out of the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund and Social Security Fund of Life Insurance Corporation of India. Under the scheme, a lumpsum payment of Rs. 3000/- in case of natural death and Rs. 6000/- in case of accidental death is paid to the family of a deceased worker.

As regards the applicability of Employees State Insurance Scheme to all workers, it is clarified that the coverage of the ESI Scheme is according to the ESI Act, 1948 and is not universal. Moreover ESI Scheme is being extended in a phased manner covering industrial workers employed in factories/ establishments located in the areas notified from time to time.

*[Translation]*

### **New Stock Exchanges**

4348. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA: SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to recognise and approve some more stock exchanges including one each at Surat and Vijayawada;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken by the Government to prohibit the trading of shares and other securities at the places where there are no recognised stock exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The Government has recently conveyed permission for organising a Stock Exchange at Ranchi. Apart from this, the Government does not intend, at present, to grant recognition to any new Stock Exchange in the country, including at Surat and Vijayawada.

(c) if the trading in shares and other securities is taking place through unauthorised Stock Exchanges, it would be an offence under the provisions of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956. In order to safeguard the interest of the investing public, the Securities and Exchange Board of India has issued a Press Release in November, 1992 and also sent a letter to the Chief Secretaries of the State Governments and Union Territories, regarding prohibition of transactions in securities through stock exchanges other than those formally recognised.

**Assistance to Voluntary Agencies  
by I.D.B.I.**

4349. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has provided any assistance to voluntary agencies from Rural Development Fund;

(b) if so, the procedure of this type of assistance; and

(c) the details of the works executed by these agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V.

CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) The Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that it has provided financial assistance to voluntary agencies from its Technical Assistance Fund (TAF) and not from Rural Development Fund (RDF).

(b) and (c). IDBI has reported that the sanctions and release of funds to voluntary agencies are based on proposals received from them. The voluntary agencies engaged in economic upliftment of under privileged through creation of opportunities for wage/self-employment in industrial fields are eligible for assistance. To be eligible, the voluntary agencies should be registered organisations and schemes proposed by them should arrange for part of the capital expenditure as also for recurring expenditure. As on March 31, 1994, assistance aggregating Rs. 13.20 crore has been provided by IDBI to 142 voluntary agencies. The time and labour involved in preparation of statements giving details of the works executed by these agencies may not commensurate with the results to be achieved.

*[English]*

**Trade with U.S.A.**

4350. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reached an understanding with the U.S.A. for exploring the major consumer markets; and

(b) if so, the details and likely impact thereof on our consumer industry?