

state : whether there has been general agreement in favour of the new Insurance Gratuity Scheme of the Government and if so, details thereof and plans for implementation in order to uplift a large number of low paid workers in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : A suggestion for making a suitable provision in the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 for compulsory insurance of employers' liability/setting up of a separate trust fund, for payment of gratuity was considered at the Indian Labour Conference held in November, 1985 and was generally accepted. The recommendation of the conference is under consideration of the Government.

Establishment of fertiliser plant at Mezenga in Sibsagar, Assam

3083. **SHRI PARAG CHALIHA :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any plan to establish a Fertiliser plant at Mezenga in Sibsagar, Assam, where natural gas could be easily and profitably utilised; and

(b) if so, whether it has been included in the Seventh Five Year Plan; if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (S. BUTA SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) At present, a new gas-based fertilizer plant, known as Namrup-III project, is under installation in Assam; it is expected to be commissioned by August, 1986. Production from the existing gas-based fertilizer units at Namrup and the new Namrup-III unit, would be more than adequate to meet the Nitrogenous fertilizer requirement of the entire North Eastern Region during the Seventh Five Year Plan. Keeping this surplus situation in view, there is no proposal to establish another new gas-based fertilizer plant in Assam.

Assistance to Kerala for flood relief

3084. **SHRI T. BASHEER :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the Central assistance sought and sanctioned to Kerala during the last year to meet the situation caused by floods in the State;

(b) the total amount released;

(c) whether Government of Kerala have requested any further assistance from Central Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps Government have taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) During the year 1985-86 the Government of Kerala submitted Memorandum seeking central assistance in the wake of floods to the tune of Rs. 743.36 crores. A ceiling of central assistance amounting to Rs. 134.79 crores has been sanctioned to Kerala on 28.8.1985.

(b) A total assistance of Rs. 108.88 crores has been released on the basis of details of expenditure sent by the State Government.

(c) and (d). No further request for central assistance in the wake of floods has been received from the Government of Kerala.

(e) Does not arise.

Coconut cultivation development schemes undertaken by Coconut Board

3085. **SHRI T. BASHEER :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the schemes undertaken by the Coconut Board for development of coconut cultivation in the country during the last year;

(b) the amount spent on those schemes; and

(c) the results achieved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND