

that the reduction in bureaucratic procedures may encourage Pakistani exporters to look more to India.

(c) and (d). The question of extending a similar facility to the Indian private sector trade does not arise as there are no such restrictions imposed on private trade by us especially for trade with Pakistan.

Insurance Scheme for Agriculture Labourers

2728. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister had announced the introduction of Free Insurance Scheme for agricultural labourers on 16 May 1987;

(b) if so, whether the scheme has been implemented by the Life Insurance Corporation during the financial year 1987-88; and

(c) if so, the salient features of the Scheme and the number of landless agricultural labourers who have been covered under the scheme during 1987-88 and the targets for 1988-89 and 1989-90?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir. The Prime Minister had announced on 16 May, 1987 that a free Insurance Scheme for landless agricultural labourers would be devised soon.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Life Insurance Corporation of India accordingly formulated a Group Insurance Scheme which came into force with effect from 15th August, 1987.

(c) All landless agricultural labourers in the age group of 18 to 60 throughout India are covered under this Scheme for a sum assured of Rs. 1,000/- payable by LIC to the nominee in the event of the death of the labourer covered. The labourer for the purpose of

coverage under this Scheme would be identified through Village Level Officer/Talati/Patwari. For such identification the name of the covered labourer should not appear as land holder in the revenue records and he should not have inheritable right to agricultural land and his wage should be paid as manual labourer in agriculture irrespective of the mode of payment. He should be employed in one or more of the following agricultural occupations:

(a) Farm including cultivation and tillage of soil and/or

(b) Production, cultivation, growing and harvesting of any agricultural commodity.

The entire premium cost of the Scheme is borne by the Central Government. The number of landless agricultural labourers who are automatically covered under the Scheme is estimated as 3 crores.

Issue of Rice Export Licences

2729. SHRI SITARAM J. GAVALI:
SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Rice Export Licences have been issued by Government; and

(b) if so, the reasons for issuing these licences despite the shortage of rice in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). As per the current policy, export of Basmati Rice is permitted under Open General Licence subject to Minimum Export Price of Rs. 7500/- per MT. Export of Non-basmati Rice is permitted within a limited ceiling. However, no ceiling for the year 1988-89 has been released.

Export of 7590 MT of Non-Basmati Rice has been allowed in 3 cases during the