

drawn from a panel of suitable candidates selected for Class III and IV posts. Substitutes in Class IV are screened for regular absorption by Screening Committee.

(b) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

### Kakinada Port

1250. SHRI KUSMA KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the need for making Kakinada Port as a major one; and

(b) whether Government have realised the enormous growth of transport through Kakinada Port?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) There is no proposal under consideration for declaring Kakinada Port as a major Port.

(b) Government are aware of increase in traffic at the Port. Kakinada being a minor Port, the executive responsibility for its development rests with the State Government.

### Shortage of Life Saving Drugs in Government Hospitals

1251. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government hospitals are facing shortage of life saving drugs throughout India; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) and (b). Except for occasional shortages for limited periods in the case of

some such medicines as may be in general short supply in the market, there is no shortage of drugs in Central Government hospitals. Whenever reports of shortages are received the matter is taken up with the manufacturers for suitable remedial action.

### U.S.S.R. New Dimension to India's Growing Technical, Economic and Commercial Cooperation

1252. SHRI SHIV KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Soviet Deputy Prime Minister on his recent visit to India offered USSR new dimension to India's growing technical, economic and commercial cooperation;

(b) if so, the details of the collaboration outlined as a result of detailed discussion with Indian representatives; and

(c) the extent to which such collaboration will be beneficial to India?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) to (c). The recent visit of Mr. Arkhipov, Deputy Prime Minister of the USSR and Co-Chairman of the Indo-Soviet Joint Commission for economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation was primarily a goodwill visit for the purpose of participating in the celebrations marking the 25th Anniversary of Indo-Soviet Economic cooperation. The opportunity of his presence in India was availed of to review broadly the tasks undertaken in diverse fields by the Indo-Soviet Joint Commission during which the Deputy Prime Minister of the USSR had offered the assistance of his country in expanding the trade, economic, technical and scientific cooperation between India and the USSR.. No specific areas

of collaboration was identified during these discussions. Nor was it the intention to do so.

### **Increasing Rate of P.F. Contributions**

1253. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration to enhance the current rate of Provident Fund contributions from 6.25 per cent to 8 per cent and from 8 per cent to 10 per cent;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether All India Organisation of Employees have questioned this enhancement; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK):

(a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Representations were received from some Organisations of employers requesting that the rates of contributions may not be enhanced.

(d) As mentioned at (a) above, presently there is no proposal to enhance the rate.

### **Unemployment Allowance by States**

1254. SHRI CHITTA BASU:

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:  
SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several State Governments have in-

troduced schemes for the benefits of the unemployed;

(b) if so, the names of the States and details of the schemes introduced by them;

(c) whether any financial assistance has been sought for by these States from the Centre; and

(d) if so, the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Available information regarding the State Governments which are implementing unemployment benefit schemes and the available details of such schemes are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d). The Government of Punjab had requested in January, 1979 for the grant of a subsidy to the extent of 50 per cent of the expenditure on their "Unemployment Allowance Scheme." This request was not acceded to.

### **Statement**

#### *Unemployment Benefit Schemes of State Governments*

#### *West Bengal*

In West Bengal, unemployed persons aged 18 to 58 years who are registered for 5 years or more with an Employment Exchange in West Bengal and whose family income does not exceed Rs. 500/- p.m. are paid an unemployment assistance of Rs. 50/- p.m. Those who receive unemployment allowance are expected to participate in any work|programme|scheme sponsored by the State Government. These persons will be paid an amount of Rupees