

Tribes at the beginning of every academic year;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the enormous difficulties and hardships experienced by those students because of such insistence on the part of the heads of educational institutions; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to take necessary steps to remove the difficulties and hardships?

The Minister of Education (Shri M. C. Chagla): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

Factories Exempted from Employees State Insurance Act

3138. Shri A. V. Raghavan: Will the Minister of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the names of factories and establishments which have been exempted from all or any of the provisions of the Employees State Insurance Act under Section 87 to 91 in the State of Kerala;

(b) the years for which these establishments have been exempted from 1961 onwards; and

(c) whether exemptions granted have been reviewed periodically?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan) (a) and (b). Three Statements—A, B and C furnishing the required information regarding factories/employees exempted under Sections 87, 88 and 90 are laid on the Table of the House [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6886/66]. Section 89 does not provide for grant of exemption. No exemption has been granted under Section 91.

(c) Yes, excepting in cases where exemption has been granted without specifying any time limit.

Plantation Labour Housing Scheme

**3139. Shri A. K. Gopalan:
Shri A. V. Raghavan:
Shri Pottekkatt:
Shri Umanath:**

Will the Minister of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in implementing the plantation labour housing scheme in Kerala;

(b) the number of plantation labourers in the State of Kerala, the number to whom houses have been provided and the names of factories which have failed to make any headway in implementing the scheme; and

(c) the steps taken against those establishments which have failed to construct houses for their labourers?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Under the Plantation Labour Housing Scheme, upto 31st March 1966, a sum of Rs. 3 lakhs was sanctioned for the construction of 170 houses in Kerala out of which 152 houses had been completed till that date.

(b) There are 1,20,349 plantation workers in Kerala covered by the Plantations Labour Act, 1951. Out of these, housing accommodation has been provided to 1,00,390 workers.

Under the Plantations Labour Act, 1951 and the Rules framed thereunder, the employers are required to provide housing accommodation according to a phased programme i.e. for at least 8 per cent of the resident workers every year. The progress made in this regard in Kerala is considered generally satisfactory.

(c) Does not arise.

Upgrading of Branch P. O. Virasgamani

3140. Shri M. P. Swamy: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether any memorandum from the Village Panchayat of Virasgamani