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- (a) whether the employees unions in Hindustan Insecticides Ltd. have requested for exemption from the ESI scheme; and
- (b) if so, the decision taken thereon and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has not been found possible to accede to their request, as the benefits provided by the management have been found inferior to the benefits available under the ESI Scheme.

Purchase of Drugs Under ESI Scheme

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: 245. PROF. SUDARSHAN RAYCHAUDHURI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) the precise role of the ESIC in the purchase of drugs under the scheme vis-avis State Government:
- (b) whether the corporation has come to know of any racket or bungling in the method of purchase of drugs;
- (c) if so, the details of these cases and their effect on the viability of the scheme and the quality of service to the beneficiaries; and
- (d) the remedial as well as preventive steps taken or contemplated by the Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d). The administration of medical care under the Employees' State Insurance Scheme is the statutory responsibility of the respective State Governments/ Union Territory Administration, except in Delhi where the Corporation itself is administering the medical care. The purchases of drugs under the scheme are made by the respective State Governments direct. However, with a view to assist them in their task, the ESI Corporation enters into a central rate contract with manufacturers of some of the drugs for supplies to the ESI institutions and passes on these contracts to the State Governments to operate, if they so desire.

2. One case of alleged racket in purchase of drugs under the ESI Scheme in Karnataka had come to the notice of the Corporation through press reports in March. 1988. The matter was immediately taken up with the State Government for investigation and report. According to the State Government, they have referred the case to Lokayukta for detailed investigation. The report of the Lokayukta is awaited. The question of taking necessary remedial as well as preventive steps, will be considered by the State Government in the light of the report of the Lokayukta.

[Translation]

Role of D.D.A Officials in Government Land Encroachment in Delhi

*246. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: SHRI JANAK RAJ GUPTA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOP-MENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware of the role of the officials of the Delhi Development Authority in the encroachment of Government land going on in a large scale in the capital;
- (b) if so, whether an enquiry about the encroachments and the role of DDA officials