

(b) and (c) The questions do not arise.

**Pension to Agricultural Workers**

\*633. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Government have any scheme to provide grant-in-aid to the States to meet at least a part of the expenditure incurred on pension to agricultural workers; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) :

(a) and (b) At present there is no scheme to provide grant-in-aid to States/ Union Territories.

Kerala and Andhra Pradesh have Agricultural Workers' Pension Schemes.

In addition, almost all States/Union Territories have old age pension schemes through which pension ranging between Rs. 30/- and Rs. 60/- per month is paid to every eligible person, including agricultural workers.

**Implementation of E.S.I. (Amendment) Act, 1984**

\*635 SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN :  
SHRI ANIL BASU :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been representation from employees unions to stop implementation of the E.S.I. (Amendment) Act, 1984 ;

(b) if so, the salient features of such representation ; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main points made in the representations are, as follows :—

(i) The rate of employees' contribution has been raised without any

corresponding increase in the rates of benefits ;

(ii) The change in the eligibility condition for grant of sickness benefit will adversely affect the interest of casual and badli workers ; and,

(iii) Adequate arrangements have not been made for providing medical benefit to the new entrants.

(c) The position in the matter is as follows:—

(i) There has been marginal increase in the rate of contribution in respect of certain wage groups consequent on the introduction of the system of payment of contribution on percentage basis. The rates of benefits can, however, be enhanced at any time when funds so permit ;

(ii) The difficulties alleged to have been caused by the change in the eligibility conditions for grant of sickness benefit are being looked into ; and,

(iii) The State Governments have been advised to suitably augment the existing medical facilities to cater to the requirement of new entrants.

**Import of Fertilizers in 1985-86**

\*637. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to import fertilizers on a large scale during 1985-86 ;

(b) if so, the quality and quantity of fertilizers proposed to be imported ;

(c) the main reason for importing fertilizers ; and

(d) the value of the fertilizers proposed to be imported ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SHING) : (a) and (c) Fertilizers are imported in varying quantities each year to meet the demand/consumption as