

evolving "a programme for replacing the existing 'dadani' (advance) system by institutional credit". The recommendations of Working Group, when received will be considered by the Government.

### Import of Raw Cashewnuts

\*179. SHRI P.K. KODIYAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the import of raw cashewnuts from African countries has been declining in recent years ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether Government have made any special effort to step up import of raw cashewnuts ;

(d) if so, the details of the steps taken ; and

(e) the volume of import expected for 1981 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The reasons for the decline are :

(i) Decline in production/collection of raw cashew in the exporting countries.

(ii) Installation of large processing capacities for local processing of raw cashew in the exporting countries.

(iii) Competition among importing countries for purchase of raw nuts.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A scheme was formulated in July, 1979 permitting import of raw cashewnuts from non-traditional sources by manufacturer-exporters subject to approval of Cashew Corporation of India and their surrendering 50% of import to that Corporation for distribution to eligible factories.

Import of limited quantities of raw cashewnuts is allowed for processing and re-export, on the merits of each case.

(e) For the year 1981-82, Cashew Corporation of India has fixed an import target of 20,000 MT of raw cashewnuts.

### Demands of Employees of L.I.C

\*180. SHRI NAVIN RAVANI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of employees of L.I.C. were on token strike/had struck their works during January and February 1981 in various parts of the country ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore ;

(c) what were their demands ;

(d) the action taken to concede their demands ;

(e) how many employees had been removed, dismissed and suspended and against whom disciplinary action was taken for taking part in the strike ;

(f) how much loss in kind and cash occurred during the strike to the exchequer, employees, business community and public, Government and banks ; and

(g) what steps Government have taken or propose so that such repetitions of strike do not happen in future ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT : (a) to (d) Class III and Class IV employees of the Life Insurance Corporation of India went on token strike on 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 24th February, 1981 as a protest against the Life Insurance Corporation (Amendment) Ordinance, 1981 promulgated by the President on 31st January, 1981 and the rules framed thereunder. The employees have made the following demands :—

(i) Withdrawal of the Ordinance and the rules framed thereunder ;

(ii) Payment of bonus in terms of 1974 settlement.

The Supreme Court in their judgement dated 10th November, 1980 had directed that the terms of settlement of 1974 relating to bonus be given effect "until superseded by a fresh settlement, industrial award or relevant legislation." The LIC, after taking legal advice, has filed a review petition against this judgement which is pending in the Supreme Court. The matter is, therefore, sub-judice.

(e) to (g). According to the accepted principle of "no work-no pay", standard deductions will be made from the salaries of the employees for the days on which they remained on token strike. During this period, inconvenience was caused to the clients and customer service obviously suffered. It is not possible to assess the loss to various sectors of the economy arising out of the sectors. At this stage no further action appears necessary.