

Regarding compassionate gratuity, this is paid under certain conditions *ex-gratia* and is subject to a maximum of 12 months' pay or allowances of the deceased.

AMENDMENT OF BONUS ACT

*502. SHRI K. M. KOUSHIK : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any steps have been taken to amend the payment of Bonus Act after the Supreme Court's judgement declaring certain provisions of the Act as *ultra vires*; and

(b) if so, the nature thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI HATHI) :

(a) and (b). The situation arising out of the decision of the Supreme Court was considered by the Standing Labour Committee and also by a *bi-partite* Committee constituted by it. No agreement could, however, be reached between the parties on the several proposals and counter proposals put forward. Government propose to watch for sometime whether the practical operation of the existing bonus formula imposes any substantial hardship on workers before considering any changes.

NON-ISSUE OF SUGAR AND RICE FROM RATION SHOPS IN DELHI

*503. SHRI YASHPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi Administration have issued orders to the Ration dealers in Delhi not to issue sugar and rice to the ration card holders who do not purchase wheat from ration shops;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to hold an inquiry and take action against the ration dealers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Delhi Administration have issued a warning to ration shops that serious action would be taken if any such case of refusal to issue sugar came to their notice.

IMPORT OF FERTILIZERS

*504. SHRI D. N. PATODIA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that during the next financial year, over one million tonnes of fertiliser would be imported into India;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to congestion in the ports, the ships carrying fertilizers have to be detained unnecessarily for a long time and consequently heavy demurrage is paid;

(c) whether the demurrage paid goes into the calculation of determining the price of the fertilizers; and

(d) if so, the arrangements which have been made to unload the fertilizer vessels early?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) The imports tentatively planned for 1968-69 are 1.45 million tonnes of Nitrogen, 0.230 million tonnes of P_2O_5 and 0.200 million tonnes of K_2O .

(b) Generally, there had been no abnormal delay in berthing of fertiliser vessels at the ports. The incidence of demurrage charges paid in such cases on per tonne basis of the material is negligible.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Steps taken for a quicker turn-over of ships bringing fertilizers are :

- (i) Utilization of a number of minor ports to the maximum possible extent.
- (ii) Improvement in methods of unloading and clearing operations by utilization of devices such as chute wagons and fork lifts trucks; and
- (iii) possibility of mechanization of unloading of bulk fertilisers for expeditious discharge is also being examined.