

[1 August, 2002]

RAJYA SABHA

name of his wife in Mainpuri SSA on hiring basis and using departmental vehicle from Residence to Office & claiming transport allowance.

(c) (i) For case (b) (i) : The allegations could not be proved. Case closed.

(ii) For case (b) (ii): The case is under investigation.

(iii) for case (b) (iii): These cases have been received recently and investigations have been ordered. To facilitate proper investigations the officer has been transferred from Mainpuri and stands relieved.

Fund for workers of unorganised sector

†*273. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to set-up a fund for workers of the unorganized sector;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps in this regard, so far; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) to (c) Government has set up Welfare Funds for some categories of unorganized labour like beedi workers, cine workers and certain non-coal mine workers. It is the endeavour of Government to provide some kind of social security cover to the unorganized workers. The Government has launched "Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana-2001" through the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) in 50 identified districts to cover 10 lakh agricultural workers during the first phase of three years. The scheme envisages life-cum-accident insurance, money back, pension and superannuation benefits to the agricultural workers. The LIC is also operating Jan Shree Bima Yojana, a group insurance scheme for the persons below and marginally above the poverty line. Further, Government is also implementing a number of Plan schemes like Swamjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY), Sampoon Gramin Rojgar Yojana (SGRY), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, etc. for the welfare of workers in

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

the unorganized sector including agricultural workers. National Social Assistance Programme covering old-age pension, family and maternity benefits for select groups is also in operation.

Financial crisis in Tamil Nadu

*274. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH:
SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Tamil Nadu has sought Rs. 3,000 crores package to meet the present financial crisis in the State;

(b) whether request has also been made to rescind the limit of borrowing capacities of the State Government for implementation of development programme; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING
(SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As regards package of Rs. 3000 crores for Tamil Nadu to meet the financial crisis, it would not be possible to open a new window for non-plan assistance to States other than what was recommended by the Finance Commission nor does the current economic slow down affecting States and the Union in equal measure make it feasible for the Centre to allot any additionality as grants.

Regarding restrictions to borrow for development programmes, there is need to limit further growth of debt raised by State owned enterprises backed by State Government guarantees in view of high level of total outstanding debt of most State Governments including Tamil Nadu. Bringing such borrowing within the discipline of Article 293 (3) of the Constitution is a prudent step towards fiscal consolidation for which the Govt. of India requires the support of all the States.

Decline in Resource Utilisation

*275 SHRI R.R GOENKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a write up captioned "Resource Utilisation falls, stunts Ninth Plan growth" appearing