

Formation of a policy for giving benefits to workers

1607. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:

SHRI RAMSINGHBHAI
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RATHVAKOLI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a policy to make it compulsory for every establishment to guarantee its workers proper wages, provident fund, social security, gratuity, E.S.I. facility, Bonus and retirement benefits; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH): (a) and (b) Payment of wages in the organised sector is, generally speaking, determined by bilateral arrangements between worker and employers. The Minimum Wages Act provides for the minimum level of wages which must be paid to all workers in employments listed in the Schedules of the Act and in employments as may be decided by the State Governments.

The existing social security laws, namely, Employees State Insurance Act, The Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, the Payment of Gratuity Act, Maternity Benefit Act etc., already provide for compulsory schemes of health insurance, including maternity benefits and certain retirement benefits in the form of provident fund, family pension, deposit linked insurance and gratuity. The coverage under these Acts is restricted to specified class of factories/establishments. Bonus is also payable to workers whose pay per month is upto Rs. 1600/-. Laying down of a minimum wage for all categories of employments has been recommended by the Conference of State

Labour Ministers held in May, 1985. This matter would be further considered in the next Indian Labour Conference.

Decline in prices of coconut and coconut oil

1608. SHRI M. M. JACOB: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the causes of the sudden decline in the prices of coconut and coconut oil in India;

(b) whether there is any scheme under Government's consideration to get a remunerative price to coconut growers for their products;

(c) whether coconut oil was imported during the year 1984-85, if so, what was the quantity of the coconut oil imported; and

(d) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to import coconut oil during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) The prices of coconut and its products have shown some fall in recent months as compared to very high level of prices of coconut and coconut oil during 1984. This was mainly due to unprecedented drought in Kerala during 1982, which affected the coconut crop during 1983 and 1984. Because of fall in production, prices ruled at a very high level till December, 1984.

(b) Following decline in price of coconut/copra, Government of Kerala has initiated measures for marketing support of copra through Kerala State Cooperative Marketing Federation. The Corporation is purchasing copra at slightly higher price than the prevailing market price in order to stabilise the prices of copra at reasonable level. The operations were star-