

(b) and (c) The question was considered by Government but it was held that there was a well-developed system of fixation of wages in the plantation industry in each region through bipartite negotiations and there was no need for fixation of uniform wages for plantation workers through Governmental intervention.

Women Plantation Labour

1650. SHRI HARKISHAN SINGH SURJEET: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government are aware that women workers are denied equal wages in the plantations;

(b) if so, what steps have so far been taken to ensure equal remuneration to the women workers; and

(c) what steps have so far been taken by Government against those employees who have denied equal wages to women workers in the plantations?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) to (c) The Equal Remuneration Ordinance, 1975, later replaced by the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, was extended to Plantations w.e.f. 15th October, 1975. The Act is fully applicable to plantation? from that date. Complaints have however been received from various unions/organisations, etc., regarding non-payment of equal wages in plantations. These have been referred to the concerned State Governments/Union Territories who are responsible for implementation of the Act in Plantations. Apart from this, State Governments/Union Territories have also been requested from time to time to ensure effective implementation of the Act.

Discrimination to women labour in payment of wages

1651. SHRI HARKISHAN SINGH SURJEET: Will the Minister of PAR-

LIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government are aware that women labour in the agricultural sector are still paid lesser wages than their male counterparts;

(b) whether the Central Government have given any direction?; to the State Governments to eliminate this

disparity; and

(c) if so, with what result*?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) and (b) The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 was extended to the agricultural sector with effect from 2nd October, 1977. Plantations had been covered earlier by the Ordinance with effect from 15th October, 1975. Some claims/complaints regarding non-payment of equal wages in agriculture and plantations have been received by the State Governments who are the appropriate Government for implementation of the Act in this sphere. State Governments/Union Territories have been requested to ensure effective implementation of the Act.

(c) Information received reveals that in some cases claims/complaints have been settled and female agriculture workers have been paid arrears of wages.

Recognition of foreign Governments

1652. PROF. RAMLAL PARIKH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of foreign Governments which were recognised by the Government of India as a result of sudden change-over, during last three years;

(b) what were the dates of recognition;

(c) what were the dates of installation of the Governments so recognised; and