

(b) if so, whether the invitation has been accepted; and

(c) by when the visits are likely to materialise?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJ-PAYEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The questions do not arise.

Tripartite Conference on Agricultural Labour

*115. SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR
RAHA:

Will the Minister of PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he convened a national tripartite conference on agricultural labour on the 24th January, 1978;

(b) if so, what were the main issues discussed thereat and with what results; and

(c) what were the criteria adopted for inviting representatives to the conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI LARANG SAI): (a) Yes, Sir. A special Conference on Rural Unorganised Labour was held on the 25th January, 1978.

(b) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(b) and (c) A statement is laid on rural poor—suggestions for the proper growth of rural workers' organisations; and

(ii) Need for a comprehensive legislation for security of employment and welfare of agricultural workers.

2. The Conference decided to set up a Central Standing Committee on Ru-

ral Unorganised Labour to advise the Government on matters relating to the conditions of work and life of rural workers and promotion of rural workers' organisations. It was decided that the definition of a rural worker should conform to the definition in ILO Convention 141. The consensus at the Conference was in favour of Central Legislation concerning agricultural workers and for the Ministry of Labour to process the matter further in the light of the views expressed at the Conference in regard to security of service; regulation of hours of work; fixation/revision of wages, social security measures and machinery to settle disputes.

In order to have a wide ranging consultation, some of the institutions/organisations which are known to be functioning in this field were invited. Invitees were: (i) the State Governments; (ii) concerned Central Ministries, such as the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Rural Development; (iii) workers' organisations, including the Central Workers' Organisations, operating in the rural sector; (iv) Voluntary Organisation/Institutions/persons interested in the problems of rural labour; (v) Farmers' Associations suggested by the Ministry of Agriculture and (vi) Central Employers' Organisations (as observers).

Arrears outstanding against Employers under the Employees' Provident Fund Act and the Employees' State Insurance Act

*116. SHRIMATI NOORJEHAN
RAZACK:
SHRI M. KADERSHAH:

Will the Minister of PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of arrears of deposits under the Employees' Provident Fund Act and the Employees' State Insurance Act outstanding from employers at present;