

(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 VAJPAYEE): (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 PARLIAMENTARY 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 PARLIAMENTARY 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;

(b) the classification of arrears in terms of the period for which these have been outstanding, i.e., arrears relating to the period of one year, one to two years and over two years;

(c) the names of the first ten defaulting employers in order of the magnitude of the amount due and period of delay;

(d) the action taken by Government against the defaulters and the results achieved thereby; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure compliance of the provisions of the law by the employers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. RAM KRIPAL SINHA): (a) The amount of provident fund contributions in arrears in respect of unexempted establishments at the end of September, 1977 was Rs. 1961.56 lakhs.

Contributions due upto 30th September, 1976 which were in default under Employees' State Insurance Act was Rs. 1897 lakhs as on 30th September, 1977.

(b) to (e) The information in respect of provident fund arrears and Employees' state Insurance dues is given in the annexed statement. [See Appendix CIV, No. 7].

#### **Observance of Anti-Wage Freeze Day by the Central Trade Unions**

\*117. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: DR. Z. A. AHMAD: SHRI JAGJIT SINGH

ANAND: SHRI BHOLA PRASAD;

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the industrial workers in the Capital and in almost all other industrial centres in the country representing major Central Trade Unions observed an "anti-wage freeze day" on the 20th January, 1978; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) and (b) Government have seen Press reports on the observance of "anti-wage freeze day" by industrial workers in some parts of the country and has taken note of the views expressed by the trade unions which gave the call for the observance of the day.

#### **Opening of a Passport Office in the Jammu and Kashmir State**

\*118. SHRI SYED NIZAM-UD-DIN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Jammu and Kashmir Government have urged upon the Central Government for opening a Passport Office in that state and extending facilities to the citizens of that State to meet their relations in Pakistan;

(b) if so, what action the Central Government have taken or propose to take thereon; and

(c) by when a Passport Office will be opened in that State?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) The Government of J&K has taken up with the Central Government, questions relating to improving the facilities available to people of that State for travel abroad.

(b) and (c) In order to provide greater convenience to the public in some States, where they have to travel long distances for obtaining passport facilities, it has been decided to open Sub-Regional Passport Offices in these States. Accordingly, such an office will be opened in Jammu and Kashmir shortly.