

gone there and made surveys. We have tried to find out the most suitable place in which this airstrips can be located.

**EXEMPTION UNDER THE EMPLOYEES
STATE INSURANCE ACT**

*230. SHRI T. D. PUSTAKE: Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) how many applications have been received from each State during the current year for exemption under section 73F of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948;

(b) whether any of these applications have been granted; and

(c) if so, on what grounds and if not, why not?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI) : (a) A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, Annexure No. 74.]

(b) 7 applications were considered and rejected; rest of them are under consideration.

(c) Most of these applications asked for exemptions on financial grounds. As the Act does not permit grant of exemption on such grounds, the applications had to be rejected.

SHRI T. D. PUSTAKE: May I know, Sir, what are the circumstances contemplated in the Act for granting exemption?

SHRI ABID ALI: If the factory is situated in a sparse area, where it may be difficult for the Corporation or the State Government to provide for the administration of benefits, if any factory is seasonal in nature, although it does not come under the definition of the term "seasonal factory" as given in the Act and if the employees are engaged for less than seven months in a year in a perennial factory.

SHRI T. D. PUSTAK3: May I know I if this Act is implemented in all parts j

of the Country or is it only implemented in some parts of the country?

SHRI ABID ALI: At present it is in force in Delhi and Kanpur. For the rest of the places we are having a programme as soon as possible.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 233, Mr. Rath.

SHRI B. RATH: The material on which I had based the question has been lost after the Government raid on our office, and no useful purpose will be served by my putting the question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You were not here when I called you.

*231 & *232. [The questioner (Shri S. N. Mazurnder) was absent.]

*233. [The question was not put.]

**TRADE AGREEMENT WITH BURMA FOR
SUPPLY OF RICE**

*234. SHRI S. MAHANTY: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has entered into any trade agreement with Burma for the import of rice from that country in the year 1953-54; and

(b) if so, what are the terms of the said agreement?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA) : (a) and (b). Attention of the hon. Member is invited to the replies given on the 24th February, 1953, to the Supplementaries to Starred Question No. 81 by Shri M. Valiulla.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: From the paper referred to, I find that the Government of India has entered into an agreement with the Government of Burma. Any agreement presupposes a bilateral arrangement. So, I want to know the nature of that arrangement.