

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.

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: All that is laid down in the agreement is that beginning from* 1952 we are entitled to get 3J lakh tons of rice, out of which 2,30,000 tons will be at a Government to Government level and the rest will be through ordinary trade channels. It is not obligatory on our part to purchase this entire quantity in any particular year. If the prices are favourable, we can purchase it. If they are not, we may not purchase.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Is it a barter agreement?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: It is not.

SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI: I said the other day that we are trying to negotiate a barter, and I do not think the hon. Member will expect us during this time to complete it.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: I want to know what you are going to barter with Burma?

SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI: We have not yet heard from Burma what articles they would want in barter.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Is it not a fact that this agreement has been going on with the Government of Burma since 1952?

SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI: The Government of Burma had agreed to supply us about 3½ lakh tons of rice out of which 2,30,000 tons will be on Government to Government level. And the rest was to be through normal trade channels. But we found that the prices were going up, and we did not want to pay that price. Therefore last year we did not take full advantage of the supplies intended for private trading. This year again the prices are high and it is not profitable for us to pay that price.

SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Who is negotiating this trade with the people in Burma?

SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI: There is no question of negotiation. It is a Government monopoly in respect of rice from Burma. They invite tenders and the highest bidder gets it. Therefore it becomes an auction. If the price is high, we do not accept it.

*235. [The questioner (Shri B. Gupta) was absent]

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION EXPERT TO ORGANISE VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR PLANTATION WORKERS

*231. SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was a proposal to secure, the services of an International Labour Organization expert to organise vocational training for plantation workers;

(b) if so, whether the services of the said expert have been secured; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what are the terms regarding the period of service, salary, and other emoluments that have been fixed for the said expert?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI): (a) and (b). Yes, the expert has arrived in India on the 15th February 1953.

(c) According to an agreement entered into with the International Labour Organisation under the expanded programme of Technical Assistance, the expert's services are available for approximately six months. His salary etc. are to be borne by the International Labour Organisation. The Government of India are providing accommodation at his headquarters, tour expenses in India, medical charges and office facilities.