

(Kazakhstan), Tashkent (Uzbekistan), Port of Spain (Trinidad and Tobago) and Colombo (Sri Lanka).

**Tripartite talks on labour panel recommendations**

\*151. SHRI A. VIJAYRAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the 'Hindu' dated the 11th November, 2002 under the caption "Government urged to hold tripartite talks on labour panel recommendations",

(b) whether the State Insurance and Provident Fund Schemes would be extended to unorganized sector;

(c) whether minimum wages would be determined in the light of the recommendations of the 15th session of Indian Labour Conference and Apex Court ruling in Raptakos Brett case;

(d) whether a separate national level legislation would be enacted for agricultural workers covering workers in farming, horticulture, sericulture and other related sectors;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the detailed reasons?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Possibilities are being explored by the Government for extending social security net to the unorganized workers by rationalization of labour laws.

(c) In fixing the minimum wages, the norms prescribed by the 15th Session of the Indian Labour Conference and the Judgement of the Hon' Supreme Court in Reptakos Brett case are being kept in view.

(d) to (f) The Government earlier made efforts to enact a Central Legislation for the the workers engaged in agriculture, horticulture and other allied activities. However, this could not be processed due to lack of consensus amongst the States.