

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The production of paddy in

Kerala shows slight decline of 3.2 per cent in 1984-85 over 1980-81. The estimates of production of paddy in Kerala during the past five years are given below :

| Year | Production ('000 tonnes) |
|---------|--------------------------|
| 1980-81 | 1936.0 |
| 1981-82 | 2039.2 |
| 1982-83 | 1988.1 |
| 1983-84 | 1891.7 |
| 1984-85 | 1874.9 |

The fall in production of paddy could be attributed to a possible shift in area from paddy cultivation to other crops.

(d) and (e). The procurement/support prices announced by the Government are based on the recommendations of the Agricultural Prices Commission now redesignated as Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). While making its recommendations, the Commission, *inter-alia*, takes into account the

cost of production of the commodities in different States. A comparison of procurement prices with the farm harvest prices of paddy in Kerala during 1980-81 to 1982-83 given below reveals that farm harvest prices are much higher than the procurement/support prices offered by the Government.

| Year | Farm Harvest price (Rs. per qtl.) | Procurement price (Rs. per qtl.) |
|---------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1980-81 | 152.06 | 105.00 |
| 1981-82 | 178.78 | 115.00 |
| 1982-83 | 208.16 | 122.00 |

In view of the above, the interests of the small and medium farmers in regard to prices received by them for their produce stand adequately taken care of.

Provident Fund Scheme for Bidi Workers

5304. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether some cases are pending before the Supreme Court regarding the Provident Fund Scheme of Bidi workers in the country ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : (a) and (b). The provisions of the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 were extended to the Beedi Workers with effect from 31st May, 1977. Some beedi manufacturers had subsequently challenged the applicability of the Act to beedi industry in the Supreme Court and the Court had ordered the stay of operation of the notification extending the provisions of the Act to

Beedi Industry pending hearing of the case. The hearing in the case has since been concluded and the judgement is awaited.

Reservations for SCs and STs in Department of Save Grain Campaign

5305. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of employees in the Department of Save Grain Campaign, particularly in Orissa, as on 1 March, 1982 and 1 March, 1985 ;

(b) the number of SC and ST

employees amongst them ;

(c) whether reservation rules in favour of SCs and STs are being followed and rosters maintained for that purpose ;

(d) if so, the reasons for the shortfall, if any, and the steps taken to fill the quota reserved for these communities ; and

(e) the number of reserved posts lapsed during this period ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) and (b). The desired information is given below :

| As on | Employees in Save Grain Campaign organisation | | Employees in Save Grain Campaign, Orissa | |
|----------|---|-------|--|-------|
| | Total | SC/ST | Total | SC/ST |
| 1-3-1982 | 323 | 99 | 19 | 7 |
| 1-3-1985 | 348 | 97 | 23 | 6 |

(c) Yes, Sir.

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) During this period, two vacancies reserved for SC & ST have been carried forward due to non-availability of suitable SC/ST candidates.

(c) the response from the State Government to the Centre's suggestion to declare moratorium on strikes and lock-outs in West Bengal ?

(e) No vacancy reserved for SC/ST has lapsed during the period.

Enforcing of Industrial Disputes Act in West Bengal to Prevent Strikes and Lockouts

5306. SHRI BHOLA NATH SEN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of India have sent any letter to the Government of West Bengal asking it to enforce the existing provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act to prevent strikes and lock-outs in West Bengal ;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. In a letter dated the 14th January, 1985 addressed to the Chief Minister of West Bengal the Labour Minister, while sharing his thoughts on the need to ensure harmonious industrial relations in the country, had suggested that to achieve the objectives of preventing strikes, lockouts and closures, the provisions of the Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Act, 1982 should be freely and effectively used. In doing so, emphasis was laid on the fact that while workers should be persuaded not to resort to strikes while their grievances are under conciliation, the employers should also not resort to lockouts