

Union movement in the rural labour and giving protection to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) In September, 1978, Government set up this Committee as a permanent advisory body, to advise on various administrative and legislative measures for bettering the socio-economic conditions of rural unorganised labour and for promoting their organisations. One meeting of this Committee was held in July, 1980.

(c) The main recommendations of this Committee were the introduction of a Central Legislation for agricultural workers, organising rural workers and improvements in the rehabilitation schemes for bonded labour.

(d) Rural education camps conducted by the National Labour Institute and the Central Board of Workers Education help rural workers to develop leadership skills to form associations and unions. In addition, during the Sixth Plan a specific Centrally Sponsored Scheme to organise rural workers is being introduced from 1981-82 to *inter-alia* help rural workers form associations, unions or cooperatives depending on local needs and conditions. Government is also considering the question of amending the Trade Unions Act to enable agricul-

tural labour to form trade unions and get the protection available under this Act.

Recognition to SC and ST employees Welfare Associations/Federations in various Departments

9901. SHRI R.R. BHOLE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Employees Welfare Associations/Federations in various Departments and Public Sector Undertakings have been denied recognition by the Government with the result that great difficulties are being experienced by these organisations to perform the service in the cause of certain safeguards under the provisions of the Constitution for these weaker sections; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH):

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. It has been the policy of the Government not to recognise Service Associations formed by Central Govt. Employees on the basis of Caste, Tribe or Religious denominations.