

issue of passports by Government, tens of thousands of youngmen mainly from Kerala have been going to countries in West Asia seeking employment;

(b) whether he is also aware that in respect of many of them conditions of employment are far worse than expected by them and they are facing serious hardships; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to protect and safeguard their interests?

**THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-  
TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR  
(SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA):**  
(a) to (c). After the liberalised endorsement policy came into force, 2,51,110 passports were issued by the Regional Passport offices in India. Statistics about the number who have actually gone to countries in West Asia for employment or the States of their origin are not available.

Although according to the decision taken by the Government in June, 1976, recruitment of skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled labour from India for deployment abroad is to be channelised through the recruiting agents approved by and registered with the Ministry of Labour on the terms and conditions of service approved by that Ministry, Government have received reports that a number of workers are being recruited and deployed overseas through some unauthorised and unscrupulous recruiting agents without proper employment agreements' and thus they face hardships.

The workers are given protection under the procedure prescribed for registration of the recruiting agencies. Government also carry out checks at the points of exits to ensure that illegal emigrants are not permitted to go until they have completed the necessary formalities required under the Emigration Act, 1922. Besides, a cautionary notice is also enclosed with every passport application from in which the applicant is advised *inter alia* that in case he is going abroad for gainful employment he should ensure that he has been recruited only through one of the authorised recruiting agents registered with the Ministry of Labour and has signed a firm employment contract, approved by the Ministry of Labour, in the presence of the protector of emigrants.

### Compulsory Registration of Marriages

4062. **SHRI VASANT SATHE :**  
Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND  
FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal for compulsory registration of marriages all over the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMI-  
LY WELFARE (SHRI JAGDAMBI  
PRASAD YADAV):** (a) and (b).  
Yes, Sir, a Central Legislation which may be applicable to all is under consideration. As it has not been finalised so far, it is not possible to give details.

(c) Does not arise.

### Indo-Pakistan Relations

4063. **SHRI G. S. REDDY:** Will the Minister of **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS** be pleased to state:

(a) whether he intends to visit Pakistan in order to further improve Indo-Pakistan relations; and;

(b) if so, details thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
(SHRI S. KUNDU) :** (a) and (b).  
In the interest of good neighbourly relations I would be happy to visit Pakistan at a mutually convenient time. In view of a number of important engagements it may not be possible to do so immediately. I however, hope that such a visit would be fixed up in due course.

### Telephone Complaints in Sitapur District, Uttar Pradesh

4064. **SHRI HARGOVIND VERMA:**  
Will the Minister of **COMMUNICA-  
TIONS** be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question 781 on the 17th November, 1977 and state:

(a) the total number of complaints received during the last three months in Dis-