

taken by the embassy to provide them relief;

(d) whether the Government have taken up this matter with the Government of Kuwait; and

(e) if so, the resource thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SING): (a) to (e). There are estimated to be 20,000 Indian women working as house-maids in Kuwait at present.

Complaints received from the Indian women working as maids relate to non-payment or delayed payment of wages; long hours of work; poor living conditions; denial of leave and permission to return to India as well as maltreatment and physical assault. In all such cases the Embassy intervenes with the Government of Kuwait as well as with the employer/sponsor to rectify the problem. If it is found that these efforts are being unsuccessful the Embassy takes steps to assist in the repatriation of the house maids back to India. For this purpose the Embassy has hired transit accommodation where such housemaids can stay before they return to India. The Government of

India, through its Embassy in Kuwait has taken up the matter with the Government of Kuwait. Kuwait authorities are seized of the problem and have indicated that they intend to initiate measures to ensure that the conditions of the expatriate workers in Kuwait which would include India house-maids, are improved.

Ongoing Irrigation Projects

*450. **SHRI SARAT CHANDRA PATI NAYAK:** Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of irrigation projects are behind schedule;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the total cost escalation of the projects due to delays; and

(d) the steps taken to reduce the cost?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (d). A Statement is attached.

Statewise number of On going major medium and renovation/modernisation projects as at the beginning of VIII Plan is as under -

Sl No	Name of State	Total Ongoing (approved and unapproved) projects at the beginning of VIII Plan					Ongoing approved projects				
		Major	Med	ERM	Major	Med	ERM	Major	Med	ERM	Behind Schedule
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
1	Andhra Pradesh	12	18	3	7	10	2	6	9		
2	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
3	Assam	5	6	4	5	6	-	4	6		
4	Rihar	16	20	5	9	16	2	7	14	1	
5	Goa	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	1		
6	Gujarat	9	25	12	9	21	5	8	21	5	
7	Haryana	4		6	2	-	-	2	-		

Sl No	Name of State	Total Ongoing (approved and unapproved) projects at the beginning of VIII Plan						Ongoing approved projects					
		Major	Med	ERM	Major	Med	ERM	Major	Med	ERM	Major	Med	ERM
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11			
17	Nagaland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
18	Orissa	5	10	1	4	6	-	5	6	-	-	-	-
19	Punjab	-	1	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	Rajasthan	7	7	21	5	7	1	5	7	1	1	1	1
21	Sikkim	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22.	Tamil Nadu	-	2	4	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
23	Tripura	-	3	-	-	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
24	Uttar Pradesh	18	2	18	10	2	8	9	2	7	2	7	7
25	West Bengal	3	16	3	2	13	-	2	11	-	-	-	-
	Union Territories	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	157	226	96	103	165	20	93	159	17			

Sl No	Name of State	Total Ongoing (approved and unapproved) and unapproved projects at the beginning of VIII Plan					Ongoing approved projects projects.				
		Major	Med	ERM	Major	Med	ERM	Major	Med	ERM	Behind Schedule
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	

Notes

- 1 E.R.M Extension/Renovation/Modernisation
2. Unless specific information is available, time schedule for completion of a major and medium projects are assumed to be 10 years and 5 years respectively.
3. While there is a escalation of cost in all the projects as escalation in cost due to rise in prices during construction is not considered at the time of formulation of project proposals, the increase in cost of approved ongoing projects over the approved cost is Rs. 26733 crores. The main factors responsible for increase in cost are.
 - i) Inadequate allocation of funds due to taking up of a large number of projects beyond the availability of resources.
 - ii) Change in design and scope of the project during construction mainly due to inadequate investigation at the time of formulation of project proposals.
 - iii) Inadequate provisions in the original estimates.
 - iv) Difficulties in acquisition of land (both private and forest) and rehabilitation and resettlement of oustees.
 - v) Contractual problems, labour problem, public agitations etc.
- 4 Steps taken for expeditious completion of ongoing projects and avoiding consequent rise in cost are as under:-
 - i) VIII Plan strategy is to give priority to funding of ongoing projects.
 - ii) The Planning Commission has decided to rationally follow earmarking of outlays for important on going irrigation projects in the States
 - iii) Central Water Commission has been entrusted with monitoring of selected projects and State Governments have been advised to monitor all major and medium irrigation projects and establish cost control cells for checking rise in cost.