(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 AF-FAIRS (SHRI DINESH SING): (a) to (e). There are estimated to be 20, 000 Indian women working as house-maids in Kuwait at resent.

Complaints received from the Indian women working as maids relate to nonpayment 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/sponeor to rectify the problem. If it is found that these efforts are being unsuccessful the Embassy takes steps to assist in the repetriation of the house maids back to India. For this purpose the Embassy as hired trausit accommodation where such housemaids can stay before they return to India. The Government of

India, through its Embasey 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 initiute 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 RE-SOURCES be pleased to state:

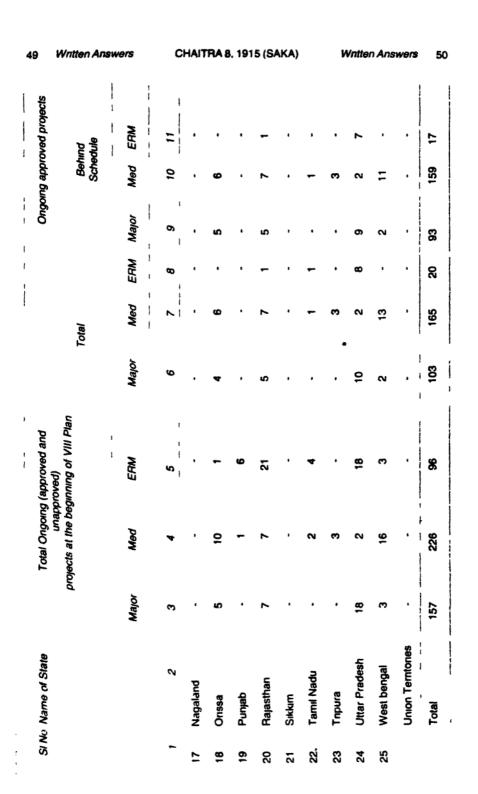
- (a) whether a number of intigation projects are behind schedule;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the total cost escalation of the projects due to delays; and
 - (d) the steps taken to reduce the cost?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RE-SOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIMEN-TARY AFFIARS (SRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (d). A Statement is attached.

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

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47	Written Answers		MARCH 29, 1993					Written Answers			3	48	
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- 1 E.R.M Extension/Renocation/Modernisation
- 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 તાં
- 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 true of formulation of project proposals, the increase in cost of approved ongoingprojects over the approved cost is Rs. 26733 crores. The main factors responsible for increase in cost are. က
- inadequate allocation of funds due to taking up oaf a large number of projects beyond the availability of resources
- Change in design and scope of the project during construction mainly due to inadequate investigation at the time of formulation of project proposals.
- Inadequate provisions in the onginal estimates.

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- Difficulties in acquisition of land (both private and forest) and rehabilitation and resettlement of oustees. ≊
- v) Contractual problems, labour problem, public agitations etc.
- Steps taken for expenditious completion of ongoing projects and avoiding consequent rise in cost are as under-4
- Vill Plan strategy is to give priority to funding of ongoing projects.
- The Planning Comission has decided to rigonously follow earmmarking of outlays for important on going irrigation projects in the =
- Central Water Commission has been entrusted with monitoring of selected projects and State Governments have been advised to monitor all major and medium impation projects and establish cost control cells for checking rise in cost. Ē