

that books are piled up in the stocks whereas it is not available to the readers.

**[English]**

**SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMAN-GALAM:** We do not think, there is any problem of anything being kept in stock with the wholesalers but it is with us, the NCERT that the stock is kept. Therefore, the question of conducting any raid does not arise.

**[Translation]**

**PROF. PREM DHUMAL:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question about non-availability of NCERT books to students had been raised earlier also. Whereas the Private Companies are printing N.C.E.R.T. books on the same subjects. I would like to know whether hon. Minister is aware of such cases. Besides, I would like to ask whether efforts would be made to ensure availability of NCERT books in Hilly and backward areas where people have to tread miles to get those books?

**[English]**

**SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMAN-GALAM:** With regard to the question of private publishers re-printing the books, it cannot be done legally. It must probably be done illegally. Since it has been brought to my notice, I shall definitely have the matter looked into to find out if really such a situation does exist. With regard to hill areas and North-eastern States, let me inform the hon. Member that we have wholesale agents available, who actually have the authority to place orders on demand or even otherwise in anticipation they can assess the requirement and then place orders.

**Emigration Clearance**

\*733 **SHRI E. AHMED:** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large number of people who have obtained valid employment visas are denied

emigration clearance and are thereby stranded at International airports of Bombay, Delhi and Trivandrum;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Government propose to relax the rules of emigration to enable any person who has obtained a valid employment visa to get emigration clearance without much difficulty?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR):** (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. There are reports that many persons with valid employment visas have not been able to obtain emigration clearance since they do not possess the documents prescribed under the Emigration Act 1983 and the Rules framed thereunder for the purpose.

(c) This is under consideration.

**SHRI E. AHAMED:** "Getting documents" that the Minister has referred to in the answer, is a complicated matter. There are even now more than 10,000 people at the Sahar Airport in spite of the fact that they have obtained valid employment visas from Gulf countries. That is also the case in Delhi and Trivandrum. When the Government is very much considerate to several other categories and giving them exemption from these emigration rules, why have these manual labourers, who are unskilled and obtained valid employment visas, not been exempted from the purview of this Act? Again, there are certain agencies which are taking advantage of it. The stand taken by the Government of India has been made use of by other countries like Phillipines and Bangladesh and they have taken advantage of it. Why does the Government not give sympathetic consideration to these manual employees when the country is facing unemployment on the one hand and also the crunch of foreign exchange?

**SHRIPABAN SINGH GHATOWAR:** The Government is also seized of the problem of emigration labour. In order to simplify the

procedure for emigration clearance a number of steps have recently been taken. A decision has been taken to do away with the requirement of the PTA for onward journey of the workers. The effect of the decision is that while the actual proof of the receipt of PTA would not be insisted upon, the requirement would continue to be to have the employment contract. This decision will facilitate the movement of Indian workers to the Gulf countries.

The persons seeking suspension from emigration clearance are required to submit an application in the prescribed form along with return air ticket and the passport.

It has been decided to suspend the requirement of emigration check formalities for persons going to Europe and North America. The Government cannot give blanket clearance to all the workers because there are many complaints in the past. For that we have to have some check at least. But, considering the bottleneck in Bombay recently, we are in touch with the Ministry of External Affairs to liberalise in the case of supervisors all profession, and in case of skilled workers all profession, in semiskilled workers all profession, light, medium and heavy vehicles drivers and clerical workers of all categories including the stenographers, store keepers, time keepers and tying assistants and cooks excluding those in domestic employment.

In these cases we are in touch and we are going to have a decision so that emigration clearance will not be required.

**SHRI E. AHAMED:** Sir, the hon. Minister has said that they are in touch with the Ministry of External Affairs. But, my only humble request the hon. Minister is that these persons may be asked to deposit a sum of Rs. 1500 or Rs. 2000 and make the recruiting agents answerable if any difficulty arises in respect of giving emigration clearance later and on these conditions, they may be allowed to proceed.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Please put a question.

You cannot make a speech. I am allowing you to put a question and you are making a speech. Then, you do not get a reply.

**SHRI E. AHAMED:** I am only explaining so that the Minister will be in a better position to answer the question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** You are quite able to get what you want without making a long speech.

(*Interruptions*)

**MR. SPEAKER:** You have to put a question, Mr. Ahamed.

**SHRI E. AHAMED:** I do appreciate. I am only bringing these facts to the knowledge of the hon. Minister to understand the real problem facing thousands of people in Bombay. It is my duty to convince the hon. Minister as to what is going on in his Department. Therefore, why not the hon. Minister tell this august House that the Minister will take up the matter and see that these people who have the bonafide documents and valid visa from the Gulf countries will be exempted as you have done in certain other categories of persons from the operation of the emigration rules. Why not you give a sympathetic consideration for these poor manual working who have been anxiously waiting to go there for employment be denied that exemption?

**MR. SPEAKER:** I am not going to allow like this.

**SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR:** Sir, we welcome the suggestion of Shri Ahamed. The Government will look into it. So far as blanket clearance to be given, there are some difficulties.

**SHRI A. CHARLES:** The hon. Minister has given a categorical assurance that some bottlenecks have been removed. I am from Trivandrum. There is an Emigration Office in Trivandrum. I know definitely there are many cases in which visa is procured. The only thing that is required is emigration. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the

specific time will be fixed within which, if all the documents and other clearances are there, the immigration will be given?

MR. SPEAKER: Can you fix the time?

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: Sir, because a lot of people are waiting there, it will be very difficult for me to give a categorical answer.

SHRI A. CHARLES: He has got all the other documents.

MR. SPEAKER: He said that it is not possible.

SHRI A. CHARLES: I want your protection. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: He categorically answered that it is not possible.

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: Sir, we will do our best.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO: Sir, in the answer given by the hon. Minister it is admitted that a large number of persons with valid employment visa are not given the emigration clearance. This is such a disturbing situation and the answer given is a routine one. Since it is a fact that thousands of people are waiting in the queue for emigration clearance and the steps taken by the hon. Minister are of routine nature, will the Minister may please state that a special cell will be formed in his Ministry to expeditiously implement the steps taken by the Ministry?

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: Sir, I have already stated that six categories of workman in the specialised and semi-skilled sector, will not be requiring emigration check. I think that will cover majority of the workers. For other workers, our officers have to satisfy themselves about the documents.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: Mr. Speaker, Sir the questioner has said that a large number of people have been stranded. The Minister has also said that many persons

have been stranded. I would like to know whether he has got figures as to how many persons have been stranded at Bombay, Delhi and Trivandrum because of the non-compliance with the emigration rules. Secondly, I would like to know when is he exactly relaxing the rules for the purpose of emigration clearance.

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: Sir, at present I do not have the actual figures of these places, but within this month I think we will clear the emigration in those categories already mentioned by me.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED; Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is an outlet in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep where the emigration clearance is given. When Rajivji paid a visit to the Union Territory, we demanded that because of its isolation, the Territory must have an outlet there. But the officials have confined it only to the Island where Rajivji had declared this, that is, Minicoy, excluding all other Islands. Will the hon. Minister assure me that the other Islands will also be covered under that?

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: Sir, I welcome the suggestion of the hon. Member. I will look into the matter.

[Translation]

#### Water Pollution

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\*734. SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL:  
SHRI BARE LAL JATAV:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether 70% water of the rivers in the country is polluted;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the names of the rivers whose waters are polluted; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to check river water pollution?