

[English]

### Immigration Rules

6725. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make immigration rule more strict and comprehensive as a result of labour standard being raised at the GATT agreement; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

### Sale of Post Cards

6726. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Dakghar ke bajai karmiyaon ke ghar se bikte hai postcard" appearing in the 'Dainik Jagran' dated April 13, 1994;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). No instances of postcards being sold at the residences

of employees has come to notice. There was shortage of postcards in Fatehgarh Head Post Office during the first week of April, 1994. The shortage has been met by arranging adequate supplies from Circle Stamps Depot, Kanpur, while large quantities of postcards are used in various quiz contests on Doordarshan, the shortage cannot be ascribed to this alone. However, wherever shortages of postcards have come to notice on occasions, adequate replenishments have been made.

### Attacks on Indian Fishermen by Sri Lankan Navy

6727. DR. Y.S. RAJASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Sri Lanka are implementing Kachatheevu Accord in order to solve the problems of Indian fishermen; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHED): (a) and (b). Within the legal framework of the Maritime Boundary Agreements of 1974 and 1976 between India and Sri Lanka, the two countries have been discussing ways and means to solve the problems of fishermen in the Palk Straits. The last round of discussions at the level of senior officials was held in Colombo on 8-9 March, 1994. During these discussions, the two sides agreed to implement effectively the measures devised during Foreign Secretary level talks in October, 1993 to prevent incidents affecting Indian fishermen. These measures relate to (i) precautions to be observed by fishermen; and (ii) steps to

be taken by Sri Lankan Navy to avoid harassment of innocent fishermen. The issue was also discussed during the visit of the Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka to New Delhi from 21-22 April, 1994. The two Governments are agreed on continuing the process of bilateral discussions on this subject.

### **Marine Communication Centre**

6728. SHRI SULTAN  
SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:  
SHRI BOLLA BULLI  
RAMAIAH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a marine communication centre with facilities for shore to sea wireless communication with fishing boats proposed to be set up in Tuticorin fishing harbour; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir. There is no such proposal with the Ministry of Communications.

(b) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

### **Electronic Exchanges in Kerala**

6729. SHRI THAYIL JOHN  
ANJALOSE:  
SHRI MULLAPALLY  
RAMCHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of electronic exchanges commissioned in Kerala during 1992-93 and 1993-94;

(b) whether there is any proposal to set-up new electronic exchanges in the State during 1994-95;

(c) if so, the details thereof, district-wise;

(d) whether the Government propose to develop/modernise the telephone exchanges in Kerala during rest of the Eighth Plan period; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The number of electronic exchanges commissioned in Kerala during 1992-93 and 1993-94 are 218 and 57 respectively.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) District-wise details of new electronic exchanges proposed to be commissioned during 1994-95 are given in the attached *Statement*.

(d) 8th Plan objective of D.O.T. is to replace small and medium sized electro-mechanical exchanges (Line finder type) subject to availability of funds and equipment.

(e) All the small electro-mechanical exchanges have already been replaced by electronic exchanges. 27 medium sized electro-mechanical exchanges (Line finder type) have also been recognised for replacement in the Eighth Five Year Plan.