

(a) the number of Indian workers working abroad as on March 31, 1995, country-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that large number of Indian workers are stranded in Gulf countries as their passports are held up with their employers; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to held these stranded workers?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shri R.L. Bhatia) : (a) There are approximately 3 million Indian citizens living abroad. No specific information is available with Indian Mission regarding the number of Indian workers working abroad as data is collected from a variety of sources like registration of Indian citizens with the Mission, figures given, by ethnic associations and data made available by foreign Governments, and the information is not always categorised by profession.

(b) and (c) Indian Missions receive from time to time complaints regarding withholding of travel documents of workers by the sponsor or employer. The Mission at first tries to resolve the difference between the aggrieved worker and the employer through a mutually acceptable solution. Wherever necessary, the cases are taken up with the concerned authorities of the foreign Government.

Where no alternative or solution is possible, all assistance is given to facilitate repatriation of the affected workers.

BYPASSES IN KERALA

**1886. Shri Mullappally Ramchandran :
Shri Thayil John Anjalose :**

Will the **Minister of Surface Transport** be pleased to state :

(a) the names of bypass projects under construction in Kerala at present;

(b) the estimated cost and the funds released therefor during 1994-95 and 1995-96, project-wise;

(c) the progress made so far, project-wise;

(d) the schedule fixed for completion and the likely date of completion in each case; and

(e) the steps being taken to complete those projects expeditiously?

The Minister of State of the Ministry of Surface Transport (Shri Jagdish Tytler) : (a) to (d) A **Statement** is enclosed.

(e) Progress is regularly monitored and corrective action taken, wherever necessary.

Statement

| Name of Bypass under construction | Estimated cost (Rs. in lacs) | Funds released during | | Physical progress (upto March '95) | Likely date of completion |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| | | 1994-95 | 1995-96 | | |
| (i) Trivandrum Bypass (Phase-I) | 1508.65 | | | 60% | 3/97 |
| (ii) Quilon Bypass (Phase-I) | 425.65 | | Funds are released State-wise and not Project-wise. | 75% | 12/95 |
| (iii) Alleppey Bypass (Phase-I) | 99.80 | | | 50% | 9/96 |
| (iv) Calicut Bypass (Phase-I) | 1135.96 | | | Tender under scrutiny. | 9/98 |