

[*Translation*]

**Insurance Scheme for Indian Workers
working in Gulf Countries**

2538. SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of people from Jhunjhunu and Sikar region are working in Gulf countries from where they remit money to their families in India and as a result thereof our country is earning a huge amount of foreign exchange;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to introduce any insurance scheme for these people in the near future in order to stall the misuse of this foreign exchange by them; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government to remedy this state of affairs ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Regionwise information is not available.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[*English*]

**Interest on EPF Contribution of
Subscribers in Bihar Region**

2539. SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) amount of interest payable and paid to the EPF subscribers in Bihar region as on 31st March, 1986;

(b) whether this said amount was paid to the subscribers from the E.P.F. Organisation, without realising the same from the establishments;

(c) the number of establishments that have not paid the provident fund dues in time and against which no penal damages have been levied resulting in loss to the organisation to the tune of more than Rs. 20 crores; and

(d) whether Government would ensure that damages are levied immediately against each establishment that has not paid the amount in time; if so, when ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) The EPF Scheme provides for crediting the interest at the specified rate on the opening balance in the account of the Member as on 1st April each year. For the year 1985-86, the Members were allowed interest at the rate of 10.15 per cent per annum.

(b) The interest is paid from out of the earnings from investments and is not dependant on realisation of the arrears.

(c) and (d). The information regarding number of establishments which had not paid the Provident Fund dues in time and against which penal damages have not yet been levied is not readily available. However, the EPF authorities are required to levy damages under section 14B of the EPF Act in case of belated payment. The RPFC is, therefore, being instructed to review the cases of all the defaulting establishments and to ensure that damages are levied in all cases of belated payment.

**Decline in Employment Opportunities
in Gulf Countries**

2540. SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether on account of recession in oil industry the recruitment of technicians in Arabian and Gulf countries has declined in recent years;

(b) if so, whether on account of heavy premium charged by private recruiting agencies for foreign employment, Union Government propose to channelise the recruitment through Governmental agencies; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) There is a marginal decline in the recruitment of technicians.