

and duties of Indian workers going to Jordan and treatment to be meted out to them; and

(b) whether Government also propose to enter into an agreement with the Governments of Middle East countries and European countries, etc. where Indian workers go for employment so that their exploitation is stopped ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A draft of an agreement has been negotiated. We are making similar efforts so far as Middle East countries are concerned while there is no such proposal for European countries.

[*English*]

**Proposal to close down Haldia Unit
of H.F.C.**

1927. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal under consideration of Government to close down the Haldia Unit of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation;

(b) if so, the details and reasons thereof; and

(c) what will be the fate of the project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R PRABHU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

**Setting up of Panels to evaluate opinion
of T.V. Viewers**

1928. SHRI AKHTAR HASAN :
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up panels in different cities to evaluate the opinion of T.V. viewers;

(b) if so, where these panels are to be set up and by when the panels will start submitting their reports; and

(c) the extent to which the T.V. programmes will be modified on the basis of reports of these panels ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI A.K. PANJA) : (a) and (b). Doordarshan have already set up viewers' panels in 12 cities; namely, Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Lucknow, Srinagar, Jalandhar, Hyderabad, Nagpur, Cuttack, Jaipur and Rajkot. Reports from the Panel members are received by Doordarshan on continuing basis every month.

(c). The findings of Viewers' Panels are taken into consideration and modification in the programme formats are made, where necessary. This is a continues process in the exercise for Programme Planning in Doordarshan.

Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour

1929. SHRI YOGESHWAR PRASAD YOGESH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to recent reports that bonded labour system is still prevailing in Delhi and other places and that some bonded labourers were exported to Gulf countries; and

(b) whether any investigations have been made into the matter and the exported bonded labourers have been freed and rehabilitated ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b). The Bonded Labour System has been abolished by law throughout the country with effect from the 25th October, 1975 under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. Under the Act, the responsibility for

identification, release and rehabilitation of bonded labour rests entirely with the State Governments concerned. However, the incidence of bonded labour has been reported from 12 States *viz.*, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu and Uttar Pradesh. No incidence of bonded labour has been reported from Delhi. According to the latest reports received from the State Governments, the total number of bonded labour identified and freed as on 30-9-1986 was 2,09,262 out of which 1,68,319 have been rehabilitated. Whenever an emigrant worker goes for overseas employment, he goes only after executing a Service Agreement duly authenticated by the Protector of Emigrants. No incidence of bonded labour being sent to Gulf countries, has been brought to the notice of the Government.

[*Translation*]

• **Persons brought above Poverty Line under IRDP**

1930. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the year-wise number of persons who have been brought above the poverty line under IRDP during the last two years and the number of women, Scheduled Castes and Tribals among them;

(b) whether any percentage of women has been fixed as target of beneficiaries of this programme in different States;

(c) whether it is a fact that the percentage of women beneficiaries under this programme is much lower than the national average in many States; and

(d) if so, the names of such States and the suggestions that Government are going to make to improve this percentage ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV) : (a) During 1984-85, 39.82 lakh families had been assisted as against the target of 30.27 lakhs. During 1985-86, 30.61 lakh families had been assisted against

the target of 24.71 lakhs. The coverage of SC/ST was 43.65% during 1984-85 and 43.23% during 1985-86 as against the target of 30%. The coverage of women during 1985-86 was 9.89%.

Bringing families above the poverty line is a gradual and continuing process. It is too early to assess if these persons assisted during last two years have been brought above the poverty line.

(b) From August, 1985 onwards it is targeted to assist 30% women beneficiaries.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. At the national level, the coverage of women was 9.89% during 1985-86. The States/UTs which lagged behind the national average are Assam, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, A and N Islands and Delhi. A special meeting was held with the officials of the States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan for taking steps to improve the coverage of women. All States have been asked to make efforts to step up coverage of women under IRDP. The States have been advised to adopt a group approach to increase coverage of women and to increase the number of lady field officers.

[*English*]

Loss to Betel Leaves Growers in Wake of Recent Flood in West Bengal

1931. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that betel leaves producers have suffered high losses during the recent floods in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the total loss as estimated by the Central team; and

(c) the details of Central assistance provided to Betel Leaves growers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI