

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Federation has requested the Government to summon a National Tripartite Convention for Newspaper Industry to discuss the urgent problems which the Newspaper employees face including implementation of Palekar Award.

[Translation]

Action against the Persons for Keeping Bonded Labour

2841. SHRIMATI MANORAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons arrested so far for keeping bonded labour since the enactment of the Central legislation for the abolition of bonded labour;

(b) the number of persons punished and the nature of punishment awarded; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to plug the loopholes in the legislation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). The latest information is not available and the same is being collected from the State Governments. It will be laid on the Table of the House, when received.

(c) Section 2 of Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 has been amended vide Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Amendment Act, 1985.

[English]

Agreement between India and Gulf Countries for Recruitment of Labour

2842. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA :
DR. DATTA SAMANT :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken up any proposal with the Gulf and other Arabian countries for labour agreements to regulate the recruitment procedures and

working conditions of the Indian labour force;

(b) if so, the names of such countries;

(c) the main features of the proposed agreements; and

(d) the response from these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (d). A labour agreement has been signed with the State of Qatar. Another Memorandum of Understanding with Jordan is awaiting ratification. Similar efforts are being made with other countries in the Middle-East.

The agreement provides for regulation of the recruitment of Indian workers and also payment of wages and other terms and conditions of employment including end-of-service benefits. There is also a provision for quick disposal of workers' complaints.

Promotion Policy in Rourkela Steel Plant

2843. SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: Will the Minister OF STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Executive Association of Rourkela Steel Plant has protested against the new promotion policy;

(b) if so, the reasons, therefor; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The promotions are made at Rourkela Steel Plant on the basis of merit in accordance with the approved promotion policy. The Executive Association of Rourkela Steel Plant, however, want promotion to be based on batch-wise seniority.

(c) This is an internal matter of Steel Authority of India Limited who had consulted the Steel Executive Federation of India before finalising the promotion policy.

Tourism Schemes in Punjab

2844. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state: