

Recently the concept of maximum load has become more complex. In addition to the weight lifted and carried, other conditions such as the distance, the slope involved, the rate of energy expenditure, the percentage of time spent on manual transport and the total load of the workshift have to be considered. Furthermore, the size of the load, the ease of grip, the symmetry of effort and the ambient temperature play a role in the evaluation of the physical effort.

Strict observance of a load ceiling—suitably adjusted to the age, sex and physique of the worker and to the general working environment—can substantially reduce back injuries at the workplace, says George Kliesch, Director of the ILO's Working Conditions and Environment Department. It can also save hundreds of millions of dollars in compensation payments as well as prolonged suffering for the victims.

Programme to bring Hill Areas Under Cultivation

1011. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government of Gujarat has embarked upon an ambitious programme of bringing hill areas under cultivation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the environmentalists are opposed to this programme;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Union Government propose to give any financial assistance to the State Government to implement their programme to develop farming in hill areas having tribal population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e). Do not arise.

Construction of Air Strip at Agati Airport (Lakshadweep)

1012. SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure incurred in constructing an air strip on Agati Island in the Lakshadweep;

(b) whether some of the ships carrying earth to the Island got drowned in the sea; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof and the loss incurred thereby?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI MOTILAL VORA): (a) Rs. 3.19 crores upto January, 1988.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Three mechanised sailing vessels each carrying approx 250 MTs of construction materials like stone aggregates, timber, cement and soil, got drowned at Mangalore shore and near Agati Island to highly adverse weather during November/December, 1987. Approximate cost of the materials lost is Rs. 7.00 lakhs. There is, however, no loss to the project since the entire transportation activity is carrying an insurance cover.

Construction of Rural Houses

1013. SHRI C. JANGA REDDY . Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether HUDCO provides 50 per cent contribution towards the anticipated cost of Rs. 6,000 of a rural house;

(b) if so, the number of houses actually constructed within Rs. 6,000 till date in micro habitats having basic amenities of drinking water, sanitation and drainage;

(c) the targets fixed for construction of such Rs. 6,000 rural houses during the current and coming years; and