

companies for grant of transmitting licences?

**THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES):** (a) Nil.

(b) None for grant of broadcast transmitting licence.

**Demands of Employees of ESIC**

1601. **SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:** Will the Minister of **PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR** be pleased to state:

(a) what are the demands of the employees of Employees' State Insurance Corporation pending with Government; and

(b) how are those demands being dealt with?

**THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA):** (a) and (b). The employees of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation had made a number of demands in the past. They have been either accepted or were not agreed to. At present, no specific demand is pending with the Government.

**Dispute between Engineering Project Limited and Indian Construction workers in Kuwait**

1602. **SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:** Will the Minister of **EXTERNAL AF-FAIRS** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Embassy at Kuwait has failed to settle the dispute between Engineering Project Limited and about 1400 Indian construction workers taken there;

(b) whether for recruiting these workers and taking them to Kuwait every individual had to pay substantial amount of money as bribe; and

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to enquire into the matter and punish those who are guilty?

**THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE):** (a) The Indian Embassy in Kuwait was not asked to intervene in any dispute between the Engineering Projects India Limited and its Indian construction workers.

(b) Allegations that bribes had been paid to recruiting agencies in India at the time of recruitment were made by a limited number of workers. They have not been able to furnish any details in writing to enable further investigations being carried out.

(c) In the absence of any specific allegations no further action is contemplated.

**S.T.D. Facilities between Delhi and Kottayam**

1603. **SHRI SKARIAH THOMAS:** Will the Minister of **COMMUNICA-TIONS** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to extend STD facilities between Delhi and Kottayam;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which STD facilities between Delhi and Kottayam will be made available to the people in Kerala State?

**THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICA-TIONS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The STD between Delhi and Kottayam is likely to be available by the end of the 6th Five-Year Plan now under formulation.