

(c) Sub-soil brine in the Rann of Kutch is being tapped by several salt manufacturers using mechanical means. Further improvement in technology is being constantly encouraged.

Raising of Additional Resources as a result of High Prices and Increase in Population

2509. SHRI R.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that inflation and higher growth in population have necessitated the need for additional resources ;

(b) whether the Planning Commission have considered the question of raising additional resources ; and

(c) if so, the nature of measures taken and the additional resources expected from them ?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN) :

(a) The implications of rising prices since January 1981 and the population growth rate as revealed by 1981 census are still being analysed.

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

Cheating of Job-Seekers by a Casual Labourer

2210. SHRI N.E. HORO : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government's attention has been invited to the *Hindustan Times* dated 2nd June 1981, that Punjabi casual labour went to the United Arab Emirates, returned to India as 'Sheikh' and cheated many glibble persons of several lakhs ;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the 'Sheikh' 'Sahib' Manjit sporting a French beard and wearing

Arab robes, interviewed atleast 118 candidates for various posts majestic five-star hotel surroundings ; and

(c) if so, whether Government of India have gone in to details in this regard and if so, with what result and the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) and (b) Government had taken note of the press report to this effect.

(c) A case of cheating has been registered by the Delhi Police and investigation into the matter is being conducted vigorously.

Regional E.P.F. Offices sanctioned and opened from 1980 onwards

2511. SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) how many Employees Provident Fund Regional Offices are sanctioned and opened from 1980 onwards ; and ●

(b) how many employees and a industries are covered by these new regional offices and the amount of arrears yet to be collected ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. VENKATA REDDY)

(a) No Regional Office has been opened since 1980.

(b) Does not arise.