

**Programme "Press Comments" in Tamil
External Broadcast to South East Asia**

230. SHRI C. PALANIAPPAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the programme "Press Comments" put out in the Tamil External Broadcast to South East Asia in the early morning, no language paper finds place;

(b) if so, the reasons; and

(c) whether Government propose including comments from the language papers of the region in future so as to make the broadcasts more meaningful to the Tamilian Listeners?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) to (c). In the External Services of AIR, a programme entitled "Review of the Indian Press" is broadcast in Tamil and in other languages. This programme is designed to project the national perspective in its entirety and is based on the views expressed in the National Press.

However, regional news of sufficient importance also finds a place in this programme. Moreover, AIR regularly consults the language news papers to project the latest developments in the socio-cultural, economic and literary fields in the programmes broadcast.

**Bonded Labour System in brick kiln
Industry and stone quarries**

231. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:
SHRI RAJESH KUMAR SINGH:
SHRI SUBHASH YADAV:
SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bonded Labour System is still in existence in brick kiln industry and stone quarries in various parts of the country and if so, what are the names of such States where bonded labour

system is still in existence in the said industries;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Inter-Departmental Working Group headed by Labour Secretary recommended to the State Governments to make a pilot study of conditions in brick-kilns industry and stone quarries in their respective States to determine whether conditions of bondage existed there; and

(c) whether reports from all the State Governments have since been received and if so, the details thereof?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHA-
BILITATION (SHRI DHARMAVIR):**

(a) Attention of the Government has been drawn to news-paper reports alleging prevalence of Bonded Labour System in brick kilns and stone quarries in different States particularly in the States of Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Tripura.

(b) Yes, Sir. Recently the State Governments of Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Tripura, Punjab and Haryana have been requested to conduct Pilot studies in brick kilns and stone quarries in their respective States and take urgent steps to rehabilitate the bonded labourers wherever identified.

(c) Replies have not yet been received from any of the State Governments.

**Recommendations of National Tripartite
Labour Conference**

232. SHRI J. S. PATIL:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
PROF. RUP CHAND PAL:
SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN;
SHRI UTTAM BHAI H. PATEL:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) recommendations of the National Tripartite Labour Conference held in New Delhi in September last and action being

taken by Government in regard to each of these; and

(b) reasons given by the eight major trade unions which boycotted the Conference and Government's reaction to each one of the reasons given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI): (a) A statement showing the conclusions of the National Labour Conference held in New Delhi on 17th-18th September, 1982 is laid on the table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-4535/82*]. The Government have taken note of the conclusions.

(b) The AITUC, CITU, HMS(V), BMS UTUC, UTUC(LS), and TUCC boycotted the Conference objecting to the operation of the Essential Services Maintenance Act, the National Security Act and asking for review of the Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Act, 1982, the Hospitals and other Institutions (Settlement of Disputes) Bill, 1982, the Trade Union (Amendment) Bill, 1982 and the Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill, 1982. They also alleged that the Government was anti-labour. However, the Government regretted that in spite of the personal appeal by the Labour Minister, these trade unions boycotted the Conference.

Review of Rural Electrification Programmes

233. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has made a review of Rural Electrification Programmes in various States;

(b) if so, when was the latest review made;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is a heavy shortfall in the targets for energisation of pump-sets under the above programme in many States in the first two years of the current Plan;

(d) if so, the main factors responsible therefor; and

(e) the efforts made by Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) and (b). Review of rural electrification programmes of States is being carried out (i) by monitoring monthly progress reports being received from the State Governments; and (ii) through review of performance of State Electricity Boards and Rural Electrification Corporation, from time to time.

(c) and (d). During the first two years (1980-82) of the Sixth Plan, the physical achievement in respect of energisation of pumpsets by many States has been quite satisfactory. However, a few States have witnessed heavy shortfall in achievements as against the targets. The main factors contributing to the shortfalls are briefly mentioned below:—

(i) Lack of effective extension machinery for bringing home the relatively high benefit of electric pumpsets to the prospective consumers.

(ii) The high average cost of connecting a pumpset.

(iii) The inadequate and uncertain power supply.

(iv) Inadequate Credit support from institutional sources.

(v) Lack of coordination between State Electricity Board and other Agencies.

(vi) The acute backwardness of tribal areas and lack of demand for pumpset connections.

(e) Rural Electrification Programme is being accorded high priority in the context of New 20 Point Programme. The strategy continues to be based on exploitation of ground water potential to the maximum extent possible. Continuous efforts are also being made to increase power/generation and distribution facilities to meet the growing demand from time to time. The Government of India has advised all the State Electricity Boards/Electricity Departments to ensure that adequate power supply is