

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) Due to the effects of the Gulf war, some Indian workers in Iraq have been sent back to India by their employers, including Indian companies, as part of a thinning out process. However, according to our other Embassies in the West Asian Region, there have so far been no reports of many Indian workers being sent back to India as a result of slump in the job market in these countries.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Multi-Channel VHF Transmitter Link

9678. SHRI PIYUSH TIRKI :
SHRIMATI JAYANTI
PATNAIK :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Post and Telegraph circuits presently being used by the All India Radio and Doordarshan are not upto their standard ; and

(b) If so, by what time AIR and Doordarshan are going to have their own transmitter link, arrangements for which *viz* Multi-Channel VHF (Very High Frequency) links have been reportedly developed by the Research Wing of All India Radio ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) In certain cases of broadcasts by A.I.R., the links provided by the Post and Telegraph Department have been found not to meet fully the expected standards and quality of a broadcast circuit.

Doordarshan has, however, deployed its own microwave link equipment between studios and transmitters, where required. The link between studios and OB spots for coverage of outside events also belong to Doordarshan. P & T circuits are used for linking various ken-

dras for exchange of TV programmes. The performance of these links is generally satisfactory.

(b) At present, there is no specific proposal for a wholesale replacement of the Post & Telegraph Studio-Transmitter links by All India Radio's own links. F.M. links could be one solution but this will not serve the purpose where the transmission is on more than one channel. Therefore the wholesale replacement of the Studio Transmitter P & T linkage cannot be arrived at.

Multi-channel VHF links are being developed by the Research Department of AIR. Some of the units fabricated so far are undergoing tests.

Production of TPA

9679 SHRI R.N. RAKESH : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state whether Government consider TPA production more or less advantageous than DMT which led to TPA being reserved for public sector (Business standard 15-3-1983) ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PETROLEUM IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI GARGI SHANKAR MISHRA) : Polyester industry in India has been traditionally using DMT as feedstock. At present, TPA (purified terephthalic acid) is not manufactured in the country. Internationally both DMT and TPA are used in the manufacture of polyester ; the choice between them depends on a large variety of cost factors including the technology and equipments used in the manufacture of polyester.

It is not possible to state at present whether it will be DMT or TPA that will be manufactured in the plant to be erected in the future.

Reservation for SCs/STs in Neyveli Lignite Corporation

9680. SHRI THAZHAI M. KARUNANITHI : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to State :