

(f) Efforts are constantly on to release LPG connections of applicants as early as possible. Plans have been drawn for higher availability of LPG by increasing the capacity of the existing production sources, putting up new plants and higher import through existing and new facilities. It is planned to clear waiting list throughout the country by 2001-02.

[Translation]

Community Based Rehabilitation Schemes

5984. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the community based rehabilitation schemes for the welfare of the disabled persons are approved by the Union Government through, the voluntary organisations and rural development agencies;

(b) if so, the number of such schemes being run by Madhya Pradesh;

(c) the number of beneficiaries in this regard during 1997-98, State-wise; and

(d) the number of such proposals lying pending for approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (d) A pilot project formulated by the Central Institute on Mental Retardation, Kerala, a Non-Governmental Organisation, has been approved with the support of grant-in-aid from the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and Department of Culture, Ministry of Human Resource Development. The project was recently launched in six States, namely, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh and Delhi.

[English]

Health Centres in the States

5985. SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the deteriorating conditions in the Health Centres in States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to take up the matter with the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (c) Government is aware of certain gaps in rural health infrastructure due to lack of manpower and resources. The Central Government has been asking the States to see that adequate funds are allocated for drugs, equipment and essential maintenance. States are also advised from time to time to fill up the existing vacancies of medical and para-medical staff on priority basis. Strengthening of First Referral Units, Primary Health Centres and providing better facilities at the Sub-Centre level, constitute a major part of the recently launched Reproductive and Child Health Programme. Besides, Family Welfare Services are also being strengthened and expanded through various other externally aided projects.

Labour Support to the International Market

5986. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether several foreign countries have expressed their interest to get labourers from India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to send our skilled/semi-skilled workers to those countries like Israel, South Korea etc.;

(d) the present policy of the Government in this regard and existing network for channelising the labour supply to the International market;

(e) the total number of registered remitting agencies and the number of persons sent abroad through them during the last three years; and

(f) the details of cases where in the agencies have indulged in exploitative practices and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (f) Deployment of Indian workers abroad on contractual employment is regulated by the provisions of Emigration Act, 1983 and the rules framed thereunder. Under the Act, the foreign employers desirous of recruiting manpower from India can either authorise the registered recruiting agents in India for making recruitment on their behalf or can make direct recruitment themselves after obtaining permit from the concerned Indian Mission abroad or from the competent authority notified under the Act. The main demand for Indian workers has been from the Gulf countries. Govt. of Israel had also shown interest in recruitment of Indian skilled and semi-skilled workers for