

construction work in Israel. It was decided that Govt. should permit deployment of Indian workers in limited numbers on the basis of prior work permit issued by the Israeli authorities. No quota for export of man power to South Korea has been allocated.

Under the Act, all intending emigrants having 'Emigration check required' (ECR) endorsement on their passports are required to furnish through registered recruiting agents, demand letters, power of attorney and employment contract, duly attested by Indian mission in the country of employment. Emigration clearance is granted after thorough scrutiny of these documents by the concerned protector of emigrant (POE). The emigration procedure was simplified with effect from 4th October, 1991. Under the revised procedure, the emigrants falling under any of the following six additional categories of 'Emigration check not required' (ECNR) are given emigration clearance after submission of an affidavit by the registered recruiting agent to the effect that the workers actually belong to these categories and that they have been trade-tested for work which they will be deployed by the foreign employer :-

- (i) Supervisors (all professions)
- (ii) Skilled workers (all professions)
- (iii) Semi-skilled workers (all professions)
- (iv) Light/Medium/Heavy Vehicle Drivers
- (v) Clerical workers of all categories including stenographers, Store-keepers, time-keepers, typists etc.
- (vi) Cook excluding those who seek employment in household duties (as cooks)

The total number of Recruiting Agents registered with the Ministry of Labour upto 30.6.1998 was 3047. The number of emigration clearance/ECNR endorsement granted by offices of POEs during the past 3 years was as under :-

Year	No. of workers (in lakhs)
1995	4.15
1996	4.14
1997	4.16

As and when cases regarding indulgence of the recruiting agents in exploitative practices come to the notice of the Government, immediate action for suspension/cancellation of the registration certificates is taken. During the last 3 years registration certificates of 43 recruiting agents were

suspended. In one case the registration certificate was finally cancelled. In one case the bank guarantee furnished by the Recruiting Agent was forfeited and the amount was distributed among the complainants.

### **Revival of Community Health Guides Scheme**

5987. SHRI S. SUDHAKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have considered a proposal to revive the community Health Guides scheme which was closed a few years back;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be taken by the Government to start the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (d) The Community Health Workers Scheme, launched in 1977, was renamed as Village Health Guide Scheme in 1981. The Scheme has been reviewed from time to time. The Scheme is still in operation in many States of the country. An Expert Committee has been set up to look into the various aspect of the Village Health Guide Scheme. On receipt of the Committee's report, the Government will consider the same and take appropriate action.

### **Right to a speedy trial**

5988. SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission in its latest report has observed that the right to a fair trial which includes the right to a speedy trial is apart of our international obligations;

(b) whether 80 per cent prisoners are undertrial; and

(c) if so, the details regarding the observations made by the National Human Rights Commission?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Annual Report of the Commission for the year 1996-97 has indicated that nearly 80 percent or more of the prison inmates are undertrials.

(c) The Annual Report of the Commission have been laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 9.6.98.