

(a) whether the border with Pakistan is proposed to be sealed in Kashmir as has been done by Pakistan on the Western border; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) (a) and (b) There are no reports to indicate that Pakistan has sealed the Western border. As per information available, Prime Minister, Pakistan, during a meeting to review the law and order situation in Sindh, had given direction to deal the International border of Sindh.

2. Considerable portion of the border with Pakistan in J&K can not be fenced due to rugged nature of the terrain and gaps due to rivers, nullahs and streams etc. However, fencing of the Jammu International Border is under active consideration of the Government.

3. Further, Government have adopted a multi-pronged approach to tackle infiltration and militancy which includes, inter-alia, strengthening border management, gearing up the intelligence machinery, well-coordinated and sustained operations against terrorists and subversive elements by the State and Central agencies, intensification of patrolling and checking on border and other vulnerable areas, upgrading of technical equipments with the police and security forces, improved inter-action with the border population, etc.

Improvement of Unorganised Labour

*330. SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH:
SHRI K.P. MÜNUSAMY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has proposed any measure for improvement the lot of unorganised labour;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of action taken in this regard so far and its impact?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) A number of labour laws enacted for protection of workers' rights and for their welfare are also applicable to unorganised workers. Some of these laws are: the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970, the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976,

the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966, the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979, the Beedi Workers' Welfare Fund Act, 1976 etc. Workers engaged in iron ore, manganese ore, chrome ore, limestone, dolomite and mica mines, cine industry and beedi industry are also covered by the various welfare programmes undertaken under the concerned welfare funds. State Governments have also launched insurance and social security schemes covering large number of workers engaged in specific activities like handloom weavers, rikshaw pullers, etc. Improvement in quality of employment and conditions of work of workers in these unorganised/informal sector has been and continues to be a matter of prime concern for the Government.

The Government are also implementing a number of poverty alleviation and employment generation schemes like Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Jawahar Rojgar Yojna (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Indira Awaas Yojna (IAY), Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (D.W.C.R.A.), National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) etc. which are designed especially to benefit rural poor including workers in these unorganised/informal sector.

As regards fresh policy initiatives, the Central Government have enacted the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 to protect the interest of workers engaged in construction industry which constitutes the second largest activity, after agriculture. It is also the endeavour of the Government to provide welfare measures and to extend legislative protection to more and more workers in the unorganised sector.

[Translation]

Deaths due to Poverty and Dowry

*331. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents of murders and suicides due to poverty and dowry demand after marriage involving the husband and his family members and friends which occurred during each of the last three years and till-date, State/UT-wise;