

smugglers and couriers assisting Punjab militants in their trans-border operations and initiating action against them (iii) prompt exchange of information regarding militant designs with the concerned States/agencies (iv) coordinating operations against various bands of criminals assisting Punjab militants (v) gearing up of intelligence gathering channels (vi) identification of potential targets and providing them need based security (vii) special drives to locate old dumps of weapons and absconding terrorists etc.

Licence for Import of Edible Oil

3643. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have issued licence to import Edible Oil after reducing its duty; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Information of Tour

3644. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the elected members of Parliament are given the prior information of the tour of President, Vice President, Prime Minister and Cabinet Ministers where meeting is to be held;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the person responsible for not complying with the orders; and

(d) the action taken against the erring officers?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (d) The President's Secretariat sends a copy of the tour programme of the Hon'ble President of

India to the Members of Parliament representing the region being visited. In the case of tours undertaken by the Vice-President, the practice has been that the our programme is intimated to the Members of the Rajya Sabha of the State being visited. Intimation in this regard is also given to the concerned Members of the Lok Sabha whose constituencies the Vice-President intends to visit. The Prime Minister's Office informs the State Governments of the tours undertaken by the Prime Minister, and the State Governments, in turn, inform all concerned about the tours. Instructions exist that, as far as possible, the Ministers may give prior intimation of their tour programmes to the Members of Parliament of the area which they intend to visit so as to ensure that the Members of Parliament have no grievance in this regard.

Employment in Foreign Countries

3645. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of companies which were given licences particularly in Union Territory of Delhi for providing employment in foreign countries during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the companies are working as per the direction of the Government;

(c) whether the Government have received complaints against some companies for irregularities and violation of law;

(d) if so, the details of complaints received against each company during the said period; and

(e) the action taken by the Government against them?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) The number of Registration Certificates issued during the last three years was as under:

1995	1996	1997	Total
225 (32)	108 (14)	112 (24)	445 (70)

Figures in brackets indicate the number of Registration certificates issued in Delhi/New Delhi.

(b) to (e) Sporadic complaints against Recruitment Agencies for violation of one or the other provision of the Emigration Act, 1983 and the rules framed thereunder are brought to the notice of the Government either by the Indian Mission or by the affected workers. Most of the complaints relate either to collection of service charges in excess of what is prescribed under the Act or to payment of lesser salary by the foreign employers than that was offered to the workers by the local agent before their recruitment. Some complaints also relate to non-availability of good working and living conditions, harassment etc. Immediate action is taken to settle the grievances of the workers by way of directions to the local agents. Indian Missions are also requested to solve the problems of the workers with the help of the foreign sponsors/Govt. In the event of the local agents failing to solve the problems of workers, action is initiated to suspend/cancel their registration certificates. During the last three years, 40 registration certificates were suspended and one Registration certificate was cancelled. In one case the bank guarantee of the agent was forfeited and distributed among the workers. Public hearings are also held on every working Tuesday and Friday in which both the complaints and the concerned recruiting agents are called. In majority of the cases, grievances of the affected persons are settled through such hearings.

[English]

Upliftment of Weaker Sections in Maharashtra

3646. SHRI D.S. AHIRE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes launched by the Government in Maharashtra and Karnataka for the upliftment of weaker sections during Eighth Plan;

(b) the number of persons of each States particularly in Maharashtra and Karnataka have been benefited therefrom during the said period;

(c) the total amount allocated to these States during the above period, scheme-wise;

(d) whether these schemes are likely to be continued during the Ninth Plan; and

(e) if so, the funds earmarked for these schemes for Ninth Plan and the amount released for the current year to these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) Details are given in the Statement attached.

(d) and (e) It is proposed to continue these schemes in the Ninth Plan. The amount released so far during the current year has been shown in the statement referred to above.

Statement

Details of schemes launched for the upliftment of weaker sections during the Eighth Plan, the amount released in favour of the States of Maharashtra and Kamataka, No. of beneficiaries, etc.

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	No. of beneficiaries		Amount released during Eighth Plan period (Rs. in lakh)		Amount released in 1998-99 (upto 30.11.98) (Rs. in lakh)	
		Mah.	Kar.	Mah.	Kar.	Mah.	Kar.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Spl. Edl. Devt. Pro. for SC girls belonging to very low literacy levels	—	—	—	—	—	—