

unemployed persons at the end of the current century as reported in the "Hindustan Times" dated January 21, 1997 under the caption "Big Bang Ahead";

(b) if so, whether any time bound plan of action has been evolved to produce a perceptible dent in the unemployment situation by the end of the century under the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government are aware that many labourers, boys, children and women are cheated by some agencies and in the matter of sending them to Gulf countries;

(e) if so, the details thereof and action taken in the regard; and

(f) number of labour women in Gulf countries?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) According to the comprehensive Survey of Employment and Unemployment conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in their 50th Round (1993-94), the estimate of unemployed persons according to Usual Principal Status (UPS) is 9 million and the same according to Current Daily Status (CDS) measuring visible underemployment is 20.4 million.

(b) and (c) The approach to the Ninth Plan envisages priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty. Productive employment is an important dimension of the state policy that seeks to achieve growth with equity. Greater productive employment will be generated in the growth process itself by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are labour intensive, in regions characterised by higher rates of unemployment and underemployment. Several Centrally Sponsored/Central Sector special employment programmes are also being implemented by the Government, important among which are the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY), Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) and the Two million Jobs Scheme of the Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC). A continuation of the employment strategy of the 8th Plan during the period 1997-2002 is expected to bring about a situation of near full employment in the country.

(d) to (f) Some complaints have been received against the recruiting agents regarding cheating of workers for overseas employment. As and when complaints are received. These are enquired into with the help of police authorities and the concerned Indian Missions abroad and action is taken, as appropriate in each case, in accordance with the provisions of the Emigration Act, 1983 and Rules framed thereunder. Action to suspend/cancel the registration certificate is taken in appropriate cases. Complaints against un-

registered recruiting agents are referred to the concerned police authorities for investigation. No separate information is maintained for deployment of women in Gulf Countries.

[English]

### Re-Modelling of Railway Stations

926. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken up the re-modelling of railway stations and platforms in the country;

(b) if so, the progress made so far in this regard;

(c) the details of railway stations and platforms re-modelled in Gujarat so far; and

(d) the details of future programme of remodelling of railway stations and platforms in the State during the next three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) Remodelling of railway stations and platforms is a continuous process and the same is undertaken as per traffic requirements. Works at various stations in this regard are included in the Annual Works Programme of Zonal Railways and generally takes two to three years for completion. No state wise details of such stations are maintained. Future plans in this regard will be decided on year to year basis depending upon the overall availability of funds during each financial year.

[Translation]

### Child Labour

927. SHRI SOHAN BEER :  
SHRI DATTA MEGHE :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any difference between Child Labour and Child Apprentice;

(b) if so, the manner in which these two are categorised; and

(c) the scheme formulated by the Government for developing the traditional art of the country?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) No differentiation has been specifically made between Child Labour and Child Apprentice under the Apprentices Act 1961 and Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986. However, the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 provides for the prohibition of employment of children in certain occupations and processes.

(c) The office of Development Commissioner Handicrafts is implementing a number of schemes for the development and promotion of traditional craft and preserving traditional art of the country. These include

(i) training to artisans for imparting skills, (ii) design and technical development, (iii) marketing development support for activities like exhibitions craft fairs, handicraft expos etc. (iv) assistance for setting of craft development centres and (v) grant of national awares to talented artisans etc. Apart from this, assistance is being provided for setting up of Regional Handicrafts Museum to preserve traditional art of the country and for revival of dying crafts through a series of measures like identification of problems, training, design, development, publicity, marketing etc.

[English]

#### Representation of Jobless Employees in Hoarding Business

928. SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that 35 thousand employees in hoarding business have been rendered jobless;

(b) whether these employees have submitted any representation to the Government; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) It has been reported that several representations were made by the Delhi Painters' Association to the concerned civic authorities protesting against the stringencies of the new advertisement bye-laws. One of the points made by the above mentioned Association is that new advertisement bye-laws, by reducing the number of hoardings, will render about 35,000 people engaged in this business jobless. The Government has no information of the basis for arriving at this estimate. The number of advertisement sites have been reduced primarily in order to improve the aesthetics of the city, facilitate the traffic movement and promote greater safety for the citizens. A conscious decision was taken by the Government of Delhi in consultation with the Delhi Urban Arts Commission to restrict the number of advertisement sites in view of the aforesaid consideration.

#### Indian Tourism hit by Poor Air Services

929. SHRI SUBRAHMANYAM NELAVALA :

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned, "India tourism hit by poor air service-says study" appearing in the Indian Express, New Delhi dated October 22, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India has great potential as a tourist destination but it has not been tapped effectively mainly due to poor air services;

(d) if so, the steps taken/to be taken in this regard;

(e) whether Air India and Indian Airlines utilise only 41.6% of their entitlements while foreign countries operators utilise more than 66%; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Government in the regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Improvement of air transport services is a continuous process which involves huge investments for fleet acquisition, construction of airports and other infrastructure facilities. Opening of the domestic sector to private airlines has injected competition in aviation industry which in-turn has improved the frequency and quality of air services. Indian Airlines has increased its capacity deployment by 15% and taken steps to improve the quality of services. Air-India is also taking steps to improve its image/services. New destinations have been added in the recent past. Airports Authority of India is planning to spend Rs. 3490 crores during the 9th plan period for upgrading various airports.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. Air-India and Indian Airlines utilise 44.6% of the entitlements. Shortage of aircraft capacity, trained personnel and industrial relation problem are the main impediments faced by the national carriers.

#### Electronic Exchange at Uluberia

930. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up a new large Electronic Exchange at Uluberia;

(b) if so, the present status of the work;

(c) the target fixed for the project;

(d) the areas in which the Government have received proposals to set up new Exchanges in the Uluberia Sub-Division of the Howrah district of West Bengal; and

(e) the time by which these exchanges are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) A 1000 lines Remote Subscriber Unit (RSU) parented to Salkia Main OCB Exchange is planned to be set up at Uluberia. The exchange equipment and infrastructure are available. Connecting microwave equipment is partially available, three phase electric supply from State Electricity Board is yet to be provided.

(c) March, 1997.