

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI. P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) As per the latest available estimate, the foreign debt outstanding on March 31, 1996 was US \$ 92.2 billion. The share of multilateral (including IMF) agencies and bilateral (from bilateral Governments and Governmental agencies including debt denominated in rupees) agencies accounted for US \$ 30.9 billion and US \$ 26.9 billion of the total respectively. Other sources (such as commercial, export credits and NRI deposits including short term) accounted for the balance US \$ 34.4 billion.

The total foreign debt cannot be quantified by country of origin since there are components, e.g. multilateral, which by definition are not bilateral. In addition, bond holdings have an investor profile spread across countries. They also change hands when traded at exchanges.

(b) As per the available estimates, the per capita foreign debt in 1995-96 was US \$ 100.7.

(c) The interest payment during the last three years upto March 31, 1997 is as under:

	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97*
	(US Dollar millions)		
Interest Payments	4099	4315	4719

*Provisional Estimates

(d) and (e) The Government has been following a prudent debt management strategy, the main features of which include sustaining a high growth rate of exports, encouraging non-debt creating capital inflows and keeping the maturity structure as well as the total amount of external debt within prudent limits. As a result, debt to GDP ratio declined from the high of 41.0 per cent in 1991-92 to 28.7 per cent in 1995-96.

Scheme for Labourers

*552 SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has been evolved to look after the problems of the migrant labour working in different States/UTs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether large number of poor workers from Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and other parts of the country are working as labourers in Jammu and Kashmir;

(d) if so, whether any study has been conducted about their problems;

(e) if so, the number of such labourers in 1996 and at present;

(f) whether any system has been evolved at the union level to provide Ration to these labourers under the PDS; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (d) A statement is attached.

(e) to (g) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Government have enacted the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Condition of Service) Act, 1979 which aims at protecting the interests of such migrant workmen as have been recruited through or by a contractor in a State to work in an establishment in another State. The Act inter-alia provides for registration of employer and licensing of contractor, issue of pass books to workmen, payment of wages at the same rate payable to the local labourers, payment of displacement allowance, journey allowance, suitable residential accommodation, medical facilities, protective clothing and intimation of fatal accidents etc.

(c) Jammu & Kashmir reported 9949 migrant labourers mostly from the States of Orissa, Bihar and Rajasthan in April, 1994.

(d) The National Commission on Rural Labour (NCRL) (1987-91) appointed a Study Group on migrant labour in order to understand the nature, magnitude and intensity of the problems of the inter-state migrant workmen, their socio-economic condition and the factors responsible for migration and to enquire into the implementation of the Inter-State Migrant Workmen Act, 1979.

Contract Labour

*553 SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI:

DR. A.K. PATEL:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court delivered a judgement regarding contract labour during September 1995;

(b) if so, the important points dealt with in the judgement;

(c) whether the Government have made any study in regard to major facilities like medical, casual leave, canteen, insurance and provision of compensation etc. in case of death of contract labourers; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) A judgement of the Supreme Court on Contract Labour in the case of Gujarat electricity Board Thermal Power Station—Ukai—Gujarat Vs. Hind Mazdoor Sabha & Others dated 9th May 95 has been published in the *All India Reporter* in the month of September 95. The important points dealt with in the judgement are as under:-