

The element of subsidy varies from 10 to 70 per cent on the hull, engine and gear etc. in the various States. If you want I can read out the details.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You can lay them on the Table of the House.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : In Kerala—the hon. Member specially wanted to know—fishing craft and gear are given to the traditional fishermen ; they are given catamaran, dug outs, canoes, and plank built boats and a 15 per cent grant by the Fishermen's Welfare Corporation.

The hon. Member also wanted to know about the loans for deep sea vessels. Eighteen vessels have been sanctioned for eight charters and 274 operating personnel have been trained for operating the chartered vessels in our country.

The hon. Member was trying to mix up chartering policy with the building of a permanent fleet in our country. Chartering policy is a transitory form in which we wanted originally to allow the big chartered vessels to fish in the deep sea for exploring our own resources with a view to provide training to our own people and also giving a chance to operate big vessels so that in future when we would have built our own fleet, there should be no dearth of technical hands. It is with this point of view that we have allowed chartering of big vessels in our deep seas. As soon as we are able to have our own fleet, and our own technical personnel, I am sure, that with the amount of training that is given and the investments given by the Government of India and the various States, it should be possible for us, within one year's period to stand on our own legs and do deep sea fishing. We are doing whatever is possible on our behalf to see that the coastal States are given all our encouragement to do deep sea fishing because it is only source to boost our economy and exploit the wealth in the sea.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Ram Bhagat Paswan. Absent. Shri C. Madhav Reddi.

Labour Agreement between India and Qatar

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*638. **SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI :**
SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDI :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Qatar have recently signed an important labour agreement relating to the manpower relations ;

(b) if so, broad outlines of the proposal ; and

(c) the number of Indians likely to get employment in Qatar as a result of this agreement ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

India and Qatar have signed on 11-4-85 an agreement concerning recruitment of manpower from India. The Agreement seeks to strengthen cooperation between the two countries. It organises and regulates the entry of Indian workers into the State of Qatar through Government channel or through registered recruiting agents. It provides for workers to be given an employment contract authenticated by both Governments.

2. A notable feature of the agreement is that in case of a dispute between an employer and the worker, there is scope for initial conciliation by the Qatari Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and if an amicable settlement fails, the complaint can be referred to the competent judicial authorities in Qatar. The Agreement also provides for the setting up of a joint committee to review implementation of the agreement.

3. Attached to the main agreement is a specimen model employment contract covers all the essential terms and conditions of employment : (i) salary (ii) working hours (iii) overtime (iv) transportation (v) accommodation (vi) end of service benefits and death and disability compensation.

4. It is not possible to forecast the exact number of Indians likely to get

employment in Qatar as a result of this Agreement. However, there are nearly 40,000 Indian workers presently employed in Qatar.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : There is a great exploitation of the workers in foreign countries and also in India at the time of recruitment and in this particular context I think that this is a step in the right direction and I should congratulate the hon. Minister for hammering out such an agreement. Will the Minister consider having similar agreements with other countries and will he also place a copy of the agreement on the Table of the House together with the model contract which the employer and the Indian workers are going to enter into ?

SHRI T. ANJIAH : I will place the agreement on the Table of the House within a few days. We are also pursuing the other aspects of the agreement and with other countries for similar agreements.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : What are the amenities that are provided by the Qatar government to the labourers and what is the period of agreement ? I would like to know them. Also, what are the conditions stipulated in the agreement.

SHRI T. ANJIAH : This agreement covered the salary, transportation, accommodation, working hours, overtime, and service benefits and death and disability compensation for casualties, etc. The agreement will take place soon—I do not know the exact time—there is no time limit.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : THE Minister is definitely aware of the fact that a lot of our workers are taken to Gulf countries and then they are exploited in a terrible manner, they are not given salaries properly as promised. Very often they lose their limbs, the manual workers especially and those in construction works are not provided with any insurance even. Even more than that, they are taken under very tempting promises and left stranded in some countries so that they never reach the Gulf countries. What are the stricter steps that the Government is taking now to control this type of activity and to bring to book such errant contractors ?

Government is definitely aware of the Arabisation policy of the Gulf countries. In view of the recession that is taking place, employment opportunities are first given to the people of that very country—in the case of Qatar to Qatari people—second preference is given to people from other Arab countries and only lastly and least the people from other countries. In view of that, there is going to be influx of those people back to India specifically to Kerala, Goa and Punjab, in the next few years. What steps or schemes or measures have the Government devised to absorb these people so that this may not create social tensions in the country ?

SHRI T. ANJIAH : We have received some complaints. We are thinking of taking steps against such contractors including cancellation of their agreements, who are not honouring their agreements. They deposit with the Government Rs. 2 lakhs to Rs. 5 lakhs. Daily our officers are looking into the complaints and taking necessary action. About the return of our workers from foreign countries, we have nearly 10,000 workers in those countries. When they come back to India, we will see what can be done. At present I am not in a position to say anything as to what will be the position then.

SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS : May I know whether the reservation policy in respect of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is applicable for recruitment of manpower to foreign countries ? Has any agreement been made by the Government in this regard.

PROF. MADHU DANDEVATE : Also tell us whether Mandal Commission's report is accepted by Gulf countries or not.

SHRI T. ANJIAH : Most of the unskilled workers belong to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and minorities. But I do not have the figures.

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : What is the amount of salary paid to the labour on monthly or weekly or per day basis ? What is the difference in wages between skilled workers and unskilled workers ?

SHRI T. ANJIAH : Unskilled labour gets Rs. 2000 per month and skilled labour get more than Rs. 3000 to Rs. 10000 per month.

SHRI S.M. GURADDI: Is it a fact that these rural people go to the Gulf countries in search of employment as the Government of India could not provide them employment opportunities here in India ?

SHRI T. ANJIAH : Unless we tap our resources, we cannot give employment to all.

News Division in Radio Stations

*639. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the Radio Stations where news divisions are not there ;

(b) whether Sambalpur comes under this category ;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof ;

(d) whether there is any demand from the people for having a news division there and starting the local news programme ; and

(e) if so, the action taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

The names of the 46 Radio Stations where presently AIR's Regional News Units have not been set up are as under :—

1. Visakhapatnam	2. Cuddapah	3. Bhagalpur
4. Darbhanga	5. Rajkot	6. Baroda
7. Rohtak	8. Trichur	9. Alleppey
10. Bhadravati	11. Gulberga	12. Mysore
13. Mangalore	14. Raipur	15. Gwalior
16. Jabalpur	17. Chhaterpur	18. Ambikapur
19. Rewa	20. Parbhani	21. Sangli
22. Jalgaon	23. Ratnagiri	24. Sambalpur
25. Jeypore	26. Jullundur	27. Ajmer
28. Bikaner	29. Jodhpur	30. Udaipur
31. Suratgarh	32. Tirunelveli	33. Coimbatore
34. Allahabad	35. Varanasi	36. Kanpur
37. Rampur	38. Mathura	39. Najibabad
40. Siliguri	41. Passighat	42. Tezu
43. Tawang	44. Tura	45. Nagercoil
46. Jagdalpur		

There is no Regional News Unit of AIR at Sambalpur. Representations have been received for the opening of such a unit. The facts are that such a unit is functioning in AIR, Cuttack, AIR Sambalpur is even now relaying daily two regional bulletins in Oriya broadcast by Cuttack.

The Regional News Units are generally set up in Capitals of States and Union Territories and at places where there is heavy news fall requiring from dissemination

point of view separate arrangements for coverage. Further from the financial and coverage points of view setting up of Regional News Units at too many centres will not be justifiable.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Sir, the hon. Minister has given a list of 46 Radio Stations where AIR's Regional News Units have not been set up so far. In his reply, he has stated that generally the Regional News Units are set up in Capitals of States and Union Territories. I