

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : I have already stated in reply to the supplementary of Shri Gomango that I am aware of the hardships caused to the rural population, specially the Adivasi area, where they are divested or dispossessed of their land for purposes of constructing industrial complexes. But giving of alternative land is not in our hands. As the hon. Member suggested, we might increase the compensation to which I have said, In will give my very anxious consideration.

Indians Employed in Gulf Countries

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*420. **PROF. P.J. KURIEN :**
SHRI GHULAM MOHAM-
MAD KHAN :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the slump in construction activities in the Gulf countries have caused fear in the Indians employed there ;

(b) whether steps are proposed by the Government to solve the problems of these Indians ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Due to Shrinkage of oil revenues and recessionary trends, economic activity in some Gulf countries has slowed down. This has resulted in some reduction in manpower requirement in various sectors including construction work. However, there has been no mass retrenchment of Indian workers in the Gulf Country nor is there any immediate threat to our workers. Our workers will continue there till contracts are completed.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : How many supplementaries can I ask, Sir ?

MR. SPEAKER : Two. If you do it otherwise, i.e. by putting one and one together and making it 11, it is a different matter.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : In spite of what has been said, it is clear that the chances of Indians getting employed in Gulf countries are diminishing. The Minister has said, in his reply, that the Indians there will continue till the present contracts are completed.

You are aware that usually these contracts to Indian workers are given for 2 or 3 years. That means that within a period of three years, a large number of Indian workers in Gulf countries will become unemployed, and most of them will have to return to India. I would like to know from the Minister whether he is aware of these problems; and if so, what steps would his Ministry like to take to see that those Indians who are already working there, get their work permits or contracts renewed, so that they are not deported.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : I have stated in my answer that the economic activity in the Gulf areas has somewhat slowed down, but there has been no mass retrenchment of Indian workers working there. Most of them are under some contract for serving there, and there is no reason why their contract should not run.

As regards fresh recruitment, there are some countries which are even now making fresh recruitments; for example, Qatar. If you see the figures of emigration clearances, they would give an impression that still a lot of workers are going out. For example in 1983, emigration clearances to Indian workers going abroad numbered 2.25 lakhs. Even in 1984, in the first six months, more than one lakh people have been given emigration clearances. So, it is not correct to say that some alarming situation is arising there. Our workers are working there.

More and more workers are also going. Both the things are going on together.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : The main thrust of my first question was : what is he doing to see that the workers already there, get their contracts renewed, because there are thousands and thousands of our workers working there, who will be forced to return to India, if they do not get their work contract renewed. That was my first question.

My second question is : It has been reported that Saudi Arabia, one of the richest of the Gulf countries, requires a large number of para-medical staff at present. Actually, Saudi Arabia used to select most of its requirements from India alone. Their selection team visited India. They made their selection from among Indians only. But it is said that recently, a trend has developed wherein some of the selection teams have avoided India. They have gone to other countries like Philippines and some other countries. The reason, it has been said, is that they are not given the freedom to select through the agency which they prefer. I do not know whether it is correct or not, but it has been reported to me, and I have got some letters also stating, that they are not given the freedom to select from the agency they want. As I understand it, we have a system of registering the agencies as per the Act passed by Parliament, and also a system to monitor their work. If that is so, why these selection teams have not been given the freedom to select through the agency they want. Of course, in that account, if we lose the chance—I think it is a bit alarming situation. Is such a state of affair existing; if so, would he kindly look into it? What steps he would like to take in this regard?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : We have a system under which the Ministry of Labour registers these recruiting agencies, and they are very often monitoring their work; and they regulate what agency to work and in which way. Well, it is not correct that these agencies are being ignored. If approved agencies are

used for recruiting personnel here, there should be no objection. As regards your specific question regarding Saudi Arabia selection committee, well, it is not correct; they are coming here for making their selection. Other countries including Libya are doing the same thing; and there is no question of avoiding India on that score.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Some of the selection teams from Saudi Arabia avoided India due to the reason that they have no freedom to select through the agencies they want. Is it correct?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : We have a large number of registered agencies and they have a certain choice to go through them. As regards your specific question whether Saudi Arabia is not recruiting Indian people, it is not correct; they are recruiting people from India.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Do they have the freedom to select through the agencies they want?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : This matter can be locked into. I do not know the details. But I visited the Gulf countries a couple of years ago. You will remember that at that time, there was some problem about certain Indian workers and here in the House there was quite a lot of agitation; as a result of this reaction in our country people abroad were discouraged and it felt better to have people from countries where such criticism does not arise. In one Gulf country, I was specifically told that they would prefer to have Indians especially ayahs to look after children; but that because of the previous problem they were forced to get people from other countries. But here in our country without verifying, whether a particular complaint is true or not, some people raise a hue and cry and in other countries they do not understand these things.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : They have estimated that one million Indians

workers are there in different countries of the world, particularly in the Gulf countries and to some extent also in the United Kingdom, Canada and so on; and they are supposed to remit about Rs. 3000 crores in foreign exchange every year. Now, in view of the fact that many of these workers are hardly literate, they face lot of problems in those countries where they work. Is the government considering to appoint a Labour Attache in their Embassies? Sometimes the complaint is this; I do not know how far it is genuine. Sometimes the complaint in the Gulf countries is that when they go to the Embassy, the Embassy people do not have the time to look into their personal problems. Therefore, will the government appoint a Labour Attache as has been done by Pakistan, Bangladesh, Philippines, in consultation with the Labour Ministry to look after the problems of these people and keep a personal touch with them?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Embassies are pretty well equipped for handling all the enquiries of the nature the hon. member has mentioned. We do not designate them as Labour Attaches, but they do that work exactly which the hon. member wants to do. As regards the complaints regarding breach of contract or any other difficulty they have, our staff deal with them and the present system, I believe, is working satisfactorily.

श्री भीम सिंह : क्या मंत्री महोदय को मऊदी अरेबिया के बारे में यह जानकारी है जैसा कि कहा गया है, मेरे निर्वाचन-क्षेत्र भुम्बुनू से करीब 75 हजार से 1 लाख तक आदमी वहां गये हुये हैं और करीब 30 लाख रुपया रोज हिन्दुस्तान को भेजते हैं, इजराइल में जिसके नाम पर पासपोर्ट में सिंह लगा होता है उसको वहां बीजा नहीं देते हैं, इस कारण से कि वहां सिखों ने गड़बड़ किया। वहां चौधरी भी सिंह के नाम से जाता है, राजपूत, गुजर, अहीर भी सिंह के नाम से जाते हैं। वह कहते हैं कि दाढ़ी का

सिंह हो या बगैर दाढ़ी का सिंह, हम तो सब को ही ** मानते हैं। मैं रिक्वेस्ट करूंगा कि आप मऊदी अरेबिया से यह खुलासा करें कि सारे दाढ़ी और बगैर दाढ़ी वाले सिंह एकसे नहीं हैं और यह हमारे साथ डिस्क्रीमिनेशन नहीं होना चाहिये।

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : Sir, Sikhs are as much part of India as others and they should be treated equally. Sardars have as much right to go to Saudi Arabia as Gujjars or Jats.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : भले आदमी सारे ही भन्ने होते हैं, बेईमान तो हर जगह हो सकता है।

श्री राम निवास मिर्धा : माननीय सदस्य ने जो बात कही है, उसके बारे में जानकारी की जायेगी।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : सब बराबर हैं। That can be clarified.

श्री एम० राम गोपाल रेड्डी : इसमें जो ** शब्द कहा गया है, उसको निकाल दिया जाये।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : वह तो हमेशा ही प्रनपालियामेंटरी है, निकाल दिया जायेगा।

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR : I have heard from the Indians employed in Gulf countries, when they came here on short leave, that Indians in those countries are treated as helpless, jobless and poor people who can be employed for any amount of emoluments or salaries. I was told specifically that in Kuwait there is a discrimination between the employees from India and the employees from Thailand, Japan, Philippine and other countries. There are vast amounts of differences in the emoluments and salaries paid to our employees and to the em-

** Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

ployees of other countries. For instance, Thai nurses in Kuwait are getting Rs. 10,000 per month whereas the Indian nurses are getting only Rs. 6,000/-. Therefore, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware of this discrimination between Indian employees and the employees of other countries employed in Gulf countries and if so, what steps he has taken to set right the discrimination and to see that Indian employees are also treated at par with the employees of other countries?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Sir, as far as we know, there is no discrimination of the nature...*(Interruption)*.

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR : I have heard the complaints and forwarded to you also but you are sleeping...*(Interruption)*. Please enquire into it.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : This question was raised in the House earlier also and at that time also it was answered in the same terms that so far as we are aware, there is no discrimination as far as the emoluments are concerned.

श्री दीक्षित राम सराज : क्या यह सही है कि मनेशिया और फिनीपीन्स के लोगों को ज्यादा वेतन मिलता है और हिन्दुस्तान के लोगों को कम मिलता है ?

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Madhavrao Scindia.

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR : It is a reality...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI : When you raised this question earlier, the then Minister for External Affairs, replied that the Ministry had made enquiries from the Embassy and they were told that what had stated was not a fact. If you want us to ask again, I have no objection.

Six-Nation Appeal to Super Powers
against Nuclear Arms build-up

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*421. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI MOHAMMAD ASRAR
AHMAD :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of India had initiated a six-nation appeal to the super powers and nuclear weapons possessing States to pause and reverse their nuclear arms build-up and confrontation ;

(b) if so, which other countries have supported the appeal ; and

(c) the reaction of the different nuclear powers thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) The Parliamentarians for World Order (PWO) approached the Prime Minister some time ago for a suitable initiative to end the nuclear arms race. After consultations a Joint Public Statement was addressed to nuclear weapon States by the Presidents of Argentina, Mexico and Tanzania and the Prime Ministers of Greece, India and Sweden. A copy of the Statement is placed on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c) Several other world leaders have welcomed the initiative. Among the nuclear weapon States, the Soviet Union has reacted positively in a Government statement. President Chernenko in a letter to the Prime Minister has described the initiative as "useful and timely". Other nuclear-weapon States have either refrained from making any comments or have reiterated their positions on some of the substantive issue involved. The Western powers, notably the United States and the United Kingdom, have in effect stated that there should be negotiations for reductions in nuclear weapons, and that any such reductions should be based on the princi-