

Indians stranded in Gulf countries

*79. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH. SHRI JAGESH DESAI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Indians, trying to return from Iraq, Kuwait and other Gulf countries are stranded; and

(b) if so, what efforts have been made to ensure their well-being and their safe return to India?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government Of India is in touch with concerned Governments to ensure the well-being and safe return of stranded Indians in Iraq, Kuwait and other Gulf countries. Our Missions in these countries are doing everything possible in this regard in coordination with international organisations, respective local Governments and the Indian community. So far, over 1,50,000 Indians are estimated to have returned from the Gulf with assistance rendered by our missions and international organisations.

Three-tier Tariff System for National Subscribers Trunk Dialling calls

*80. SHRI S. MADHAVAN. Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is concessional tariff under three-tier Tariff System for National Subscribers Trunk Dialling calls and no concessional tariff for International Subscriber Dialling;

(b) the reasons for which Government have not prescribed concessional tariff for International Dialling while the foreign nations give such concession; and

(c) whether Government propose to introduce the three-tier Tariff system for I.S.D. calls to encourage trade and tourism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SANJAY SINGH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) In National Network concessional tariffs are given in order to encourage utilisation of the circuits during slack hours. In case of international circuits which operate between different time zones, the situation is not the same. Introduction of concessional tariff for I.S.D. separately is not technically feasible.

(c) There is no such proposal.

"Lack of awareness about the environment/pollution problems at the school level"

335. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is complete unawareness about the environment/pollution problems at the school level;

(b) if so, the steps being taken in this regard;

i

(c) the names of the States where the programme Of environmental awareness is being implemented at present; and

(d) the amount of Central assistance proposed to be given to the various States for this purpose and the total allocations made for the same during the Eighth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SMT. MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No, Sir. However, the nature and extent of environmental awareness at the school level can be further improved.

(b) A National Campaign has been launched to increase environmental awareness at all levels including school children. Centres have been set up for production of resource material to create environmental awareness. Fundamentals of the ecological sciences have been included in the text books on environmental studies for classes III to V and in the text books for science subjects for classes VI to XII. In addition, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme