

Misbehaviour with Indian women by Iraqi soldiers in Kuwait

3298. SHRI BEKAL UTSAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been some incidents of molestation and raping of Indian women by Iraqi soldiers in Kuwait, as reported in The Independent an English daily published from Bombay in its edition dated 19th August, 1990; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH): (a) and (b) Government are aware of the press report on the subject. The matter was investigated by our Ambassador in Kuwait who reported after enquiries with the Indian community and the local authorities that only one such complaint had been received. The local authorities have promised to take immediate action on this.

Crimes against SC/ST and women in Bihar

3299. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of crimes against SC/ST and women registered in Bihar during the year 1989-90;

(b) the number of cases investigated and number of cases pending alongwith the reasons for pendency; and

(c) what action is being taken to stop such crimes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) The requisite information is being collected from the Government of Bihar and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Indians in Gulf region

3300. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Indians working in Gulf region have begun to send back some of their family members apprehending a war;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard;

(c) what is the total number of Indians working in Kuwait, Baharain, Qatar, Oman and UAE;

(d) whether it is also a fact that while coming to India with Kuwaiti currencies they are not accepted at the Indian Airports; and

(e) if so, the action Government propose to take to avoid the inconveniences caused to the women and children coming to India due to such a difficult situation there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Additional flights, including special charter flights have been arranged from Amman, Dhanran, Riyadh and at other points in the Gulf. Our Embassies assisted in the movement of our nationals from Kuwait to Amman via Baghdad.

(c) Number of Indians is as follows (Approximate figures):

Kuwait	:1,72,000
Bahrain	:80,000
Qatar	:75,000
Oman	:1,90,000
UAE	:2,75,000

(d) and (e) Reserve Bank of India has doubled the conversion facility for Kuwaiti Dinars at all international airports in the country from Rs. 5,000/- to Rs. 10,000/- per passport holder.

The facilities to repatriate from Kuwait which include free train ticket to home town, cash of Rs. 100/- per head during journey to home town and transfer of residence facilities at the customs. Kendriya Vidyalayas and other institutions are being advised to give special consideration in regard to admission.

Closing the R.M.S. offices in Andhra Pradesh

3301. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state whether it is a fact that some of the R.M.S. offices are proposed to be closed in Andhra Pradesh, if so, what are the details thereof and what steps have been taken to avoid delay in delivery of letters due to this closure of R.M.S. offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): No proposal for closure of any R.M.S. office in Andhra Pradesh has been received in the office of DG Department of Posts.

Collapse of a school building of Port Trust Authority at Visakhapatnam

3302. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on August 13, school children died recently due to collapse of a school building of Port Trust Authority at Visakhapatnam; if so, the details thereof;

(b) the steps taken to punish the concerned officials that are complacent in updating and strengthening school building;

(c) when was that building constructed and whether the building was good enough for human habitation; if so, the reasons for its collapse;

(d) if the building was not fit for habitation; the reasons for allowing the school to continue in that building;

(e) the amount spent for maintenance and repair of the building for the last three years; and

(f) whether Government have appointed any enquiry committee to go deep into the matter; if so, what are the terms of reference?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRI-SHNAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Port High School verandah in the Port housing colony, Salagramapuram VISAKHAPATNAM collapsed on 14-8-90 during heavy rains. Thirteen children died and 36 children were injured and hospitalised.

(b) One Assistant Executive Engineer, one Inspector of Works and one Overseer of the Port Trust, incharge of maintenance of the building were suspended pending further investigation into the matter.

(c) and (d) Ground and first floor of the building was built during 1981-82 and second floor building was built during 1983-84. The building was good enough for human habitation. However, during heavy rains the verandahs of all the three floors and school building suddenly collapsed.

(e) The amount spent for maintenance and repairs of the building in past years is given below:—

1984-85	—Rs. 16,639/-
1986-87	—Rs. 40,571/-
1988-89	—Rs. 1,760/-
Total :	Rs. 58,969/-

(f) Yes, Sir. The Committee will look into the causes of collapse, fix responsibility if any and suggest measures to avoid recurrence.

Proposal to start "Speed Post" service Facility at Tirupati and Guntur

3303. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to