

Ignorance of Labour Welfare in paper Mills in Orissa

2766. SHRI BHAIKUNTH NATH SAHU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some paper mills set up in Orissa are not paying proper attention to the welfare of labourer;

(b) if so, what are those paper mills; and

(c) the details of the steps taken by each of those paper mills to pay uniform wages, accommodation and other facilities as prescribed by law?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY):

(a) to (c) The required information has been called from Government of Orissa and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

AIR Swahili Programmes

2767. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether A.I.R. Swahili programmes for Africa and the broadcasts for Thailand are entirely run by foreign nationals with no Indians in picture even as supervisors or readers; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the steps being taken to have Indians knowing these languages on the staff or to impart knowledge of these languages to existing staff?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) No, Sir. The Supervisor manning the Swahili service is an Indian national. The post of Supervisor for the Thai Unit is lying vacant. The four existing translator-cum-announcers, in both

the Swahili and Thai service are, however, foreigners. The Deputy Director overseeing these units is an Indian national. Advertisement, inviting applications for posts in the Swahili and Thai Units have not evoked response from Indian nationals.

(b) All India Radio has a scheme of language training for persons manning different foreign language services in the External Services Division. Under this scheme, External Services Division: All India Radio personnel have been sent abroad periodically to the respective target countries to gain proficiency in the language.

Workers in tea gardens

2768. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report of the State Committee of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions wherein it was stated that the number of tea garden workers in Assam has come down by half to four lacs during the last four decades although the area under tea plantation has increased to 3.81 lacs hectares from 2.56 lacs hectares during the period;

(b) if so, what is the present ratio of workers per hectare of land under cultivation in the tea gardens of Assam;

(c) what is the ratio demanded by the trade unions;

(d) whether the authorities concerned propose to fulfill the demand of the trade unions; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and Government's steps in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY): (a) to (e) The enforcement of the Plantations Labour Act, 1951 is the responsibility of the concerned State Government. Information is being