

technology development projects were formulated and funded, 5 of which relate to the use of Devnagri in computers. Then, in March, 1980, the DOE set up a committee on 'Standardisation of Indian Script Codes for Information Interchange and Key-Board Layout'. The Final Report is expected shortly. A Hindi Computerisation Project has been initiated in the Department of Electronics to effectively coordinate activities, and to propose various design standards in this area.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) and (b) above.

Norms laid down by 15th Indian Labour Conference regarding need based minimum wages

452. SHRI ARABINDA GHOSH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state what steps Government have taken for need-based minimum wages on the basis of norms laid down by the 15th Indian Labour Conference?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI DHARMAVIR): The criteria for fixation of minimum wages is one of the elements on which a decision would have to be taken while formulating the National Wage Policy. It has been decided to finalise a statement on National Wage Policy in consultation with the representatives of employers and workers at the Indian Labour Conference proposed to be convened during the course of this year.

Regulation of recruitment for jobs abroad

453. SHRIMATI HAMIDA HABIBULLAH:

SHRIMATI RODA MISTRY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government proposes to introduce a suitable licensing system to regulate the activities of agents recruiting Indian workers for jobs abroad; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI DHARMAVIR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposed Emigration Bill will inter-alia provide for a licensing system to regulate the activities of agents recruiting Indian workers for jobs abroad.

Identification of bonded labour

454. SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently issued directions to the State Governments to speed up the process of identification of bonded labour in their respective States; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the directions issued and what is the reaction of the State Governments thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI DHARMAVIR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Governments have been requested to undertake urgent and effective steps including undertaking of intensive local surveys in susceptible areas and to secure the early eradication of bonded labour wherever found existing. A State-wise statement showing the number of identified and freed bonded labour upto 31-12-81, as reported by the State Governments, is attached.