

(c) Having regard to factors like availability of alternative fuels such as coal, transportation facilities and other techno-economic considerations, Government does not consider it advantageous to locate an Atomic Power Station in Bihar at present.

Visit of Prime Minister

1995. SHRI S. KUMARAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of occasions when she visited any State as President of Congress (I), so far during 1980;

(b) whether on such occasions protocols to be observed by the State authorities differ or normal protocols of security and receiving at the airport have to be observed ;

(c) whether she paid a private visit to the State of Jammu and Kashmir during the month of November, 1980 as President of Congress (I);

(d) whether after paying her visit to Kashmir as Congress President she visited forward areas to address the troops; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI):

(a) A Statement given the number of unofficial visits made by the Prime Minister [who is also President of Congress (I)] to different States so far during the 1980 in connection with party work is placed on the Table of the House.

(b) The guidelines regarding protocols of courtesies to be shown to the Prime Minister on her visits have been issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs to all State Governments. These differ for official and unofficial visits. Necessary security arrangements in either case are made by the State Governments.

(c) to (e) The Prime Minister paid an official visit to Jammu and Kashmir in November, 1980. She addressed Public Meetings at certain places in the State and also visited some forward areas to meet the army.

Statement

Name of the State	No. of visits
Andhra Pradesh	1
Bihar	2
Gujarat	3
Kerala	1
Maharashtra	2
Madhya Pradesh	3
Orissa	2
Punjab	1
Rajasthan	2
Tamil Nadu	1
Uttar Pradesh	8
West Bengal	1

Employment Exchanges in Rural Areas

1996. SHRI DHARAMCHAND JAIN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to set up Employment Exchanges in rural areas of the country ; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. VENKATA REDDY) :

(a) and (b) The Employment Exchanges are functioning under the administrative and financial control of the respective State Government/

Union Territory and as such the proposal to set up employment exchanges in rural areas in the country has to be taken care of by the respective State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.

However, the question of extension of employment exchange facilities to rural areas was examined by an Empowered committee of the Government consisting of the representatives of concerned Ministries and Departments in the light of the recommendations of the Mathew Committee. The Empowered Committee has finalised its deliberations. The entire report of the Mathew Committee alongwith the view of the Empowered Committee has now been placed before the Government for final decision.

Plantation Labour (Amendment) Bill

1997. SHRI SANGDOPAL LEPCHA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government proposed to bring the Plantation Labour (Amendment) Bill before the Parliament during the current session of Parliament ; and

(b) if so, by when the Bill would actually be introduced ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. VENKATA REDDY) : (a) and (b) Government is likely to move consideration of Plantations Labour (Amendment) Bill before Parliament very shortly.

Increased Percentage of Unemployment

1998. SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of increase in the unemployment as compared to 1979 ; and

(b) the steps Government have taken or propose to take to solve the unemployment problem effectively during the current year, 1980-81 ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. VENKATA REDDY) :

(a) Available information relates to the number of persons on the live registers of employment exchanges, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed. The percentage increase in the number of such persons during the period 31-12-1979 to 30-9-1980 was 10.6 while the percentage increase during the period 31-12-1978 to 30-9-1979 was 11.2.

(b) A number of steps have been taken and are proposed to be taken, apart from steps to restore the health of the economy, to solve the unemployment problem effectively. Some of the important ones among these are :

- (i) *The integrated Rural development Programme* : This has the main objective of generating employment and raising the income level of small and marginal farmers, landless labourers, rural artisans etc. This has been extended to cover all the 5011 blocks in the country.
- (ii) *The National Scheme of Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM)* : This aims at equipping rural youth with necessary skills and technology to enable them to settle in self-employment.
- (iii) *The Food for Work Programme* : This has been revamped and named as the 'National Rural Employment Programme'. Besides foodgrains alloca-