

action oriented projects for the benefit of children withdrawn from work.

Task Force for creating jobs

2726. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 4185 given in the Rajya Sabha on 4th May, 2000 and state:

(a) whether the task force has reviewed the measure taken to generate at least ten million jobs in each year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof; and how many jobs have been created during the Ninth Plan so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) The Task Force is reviewing measures to be taken to generate at least ten million jobs in each year.

(b) The task force has not yet submitted its report. Therefore, the details will be known only after the report is finalised and submitted.

As per the Planning Commission the estimate of the increase in the work opportunities during the 9th Plan (*i.e.* 1997—2002) will be of the order of 50.22 million.

Sub-Standard Quality of Medicines at ESI Hospitals

2727. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that only sub-standard/inferior quality medicines are procured from the Companies which do not have proper working Capital, Professionals, by the ESI hospitals around the country;

(b) if so, what are the reasons and the details thereof;

[17 August, 2000]

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- (c) what action has been taken in this regard so far;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (e) Medicines-drugs are procured by ESI Hospitals either directly or through the Central Stores on the basis of the Centralised Rate Contract formulated by the ESI Corporation. In the case of nonavailability of drugs on the ESIC Rate contracts, drugs/medicines are also purchased through the Rate Contract of DGS&D/State Government, Central Government etc. There are stringent eligibility criteria for supply of medicines in ESI hospitals and pharmaceutical firms can be debarred for a period of three years from participation in the ESI Rate Contract in case of supply of sub-standard/inferior quality drugs/medicines.

Indian Housemaids in Gulf Countries

2728. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government consider to constitute a data bank relating to the details of Indian housemaids working in Gulf countries;
- (b) whether Government are aware that the housemaids recruited from Kerala are subjected to severe harassment in Gulf countries; and
- (c) whether Government propose to take adequate measures even to labour legislation so as to ensure their safety and improve their working conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The house-maids intending to emigrate to the gulf countries for contractual employment are allowed emigration clearance only if the employment documents are attested by the Indian Missions abroad.