

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU): (a) The Memorandum of Understanding signed on December 20,

1977 between the Governments of India and Mozambique stipulated terms and conditions for Indian railway personnel who were deputed for work in Mozambique and housing provision, *inter alia* for housing accommodation. The Mozambique authorities were, however, unable to provide housing accommodation resulting in hardship to the deputationists who per force are required to maintain two establishments. Mainly, it is this contingency, unforeseen, that has affected indirectly but significantly the other terms and conditions of their deputation, particularly, those relating to the extent of remittance facilities.

(b) and (c) During his recent visit to Mozambique to attend the Foreign Ministers' meeting of the Non-aligned Coordination Bureau, the Minister of External Affairs had assured the Indian railway personnel that steps would be taken to solve their legitimate problems. In fact, the Government have twice permitted in October

1978 and February 1979 special RBI remittance facilities to the tune of about Rs. 2,000 each time per deputationist and have as an exceptional measure, agreed in principle, repatriation through RBI of 20 per cent of the emoluments of the deputationists for the period their families are away in India. Instructions have also been issued by the Railway Ministry not to resort to any eviction proceedings against families of deputationists in occupation of railway quarters and the question of retention of government accommodation in India by them on payment of normal rent only is under active consideration. In addition, a delegation consisting of the Secretary, Railway Board and Director (Signals) visited Mozambique to study the problems faced by the Indian railway personnel and to advise the Government on further

measures to be taken. Appropriate action will be taken by Government after careful examination of its recommendations has been completed.

Joint venture with Saudi Arabia

1325. SHRI BIPINPAL DAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Saudi Arabia have reached an agreement for taking up joint venture projects in Saudi Arabia; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU): (a) and (b) During the visit of Indian Delegation led by Shri George Fernandes, Union Minister of Industry, to Saudi Arabia in January, 1979, both countries discussed possibilities for promotion of joint ventures between Saudi and Indian entrepreneurs. Certain basic industries based on hydrocarbons, and fertilizers and steel, and certain other products like furniture, handicrafts, garments and bicycles were identified as possible areas for joint ventures. Besides, Saudi Arabia had evinced interest in obtaining Indian technical know-how in a number of other fields, including setting up of new industrial estates, power projects, agricultural and irrigation programmes, communication projects, construction activities, etc.

Indians as Labourers in Gulf Countries

1326. SHRI PILOO MODY:
SHRI ABDUL REHMAN
SHEIKH;

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state what is the number of Indians who migrated as labourers to the Middle East, Gulf areas and Iran in 1975, 1976, 1977 and 1978?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL