

checking of the applications so that obvious mistakes therein may be pointed out and the recruiting agents may be asked to rectify them immediately.

(iii) Complaints regarding exploitation of Indian workers received from various sources are got investigated through appropriate authorities and suitable action is taken against recruiting agents found guilty of the charges. So far provisional registration of 7 recruiting agents has been cancelled and enquiries are being conducted against 43 recruiting agents. Our Missions abroad are entrusted with the responsibility of looking after the interests of the Indian workers in their respective countries. Complaints received in connection with harassment of Indian workers by foreign employers are looked into by our Missions abroad and action taken to redress their grievances. Steps are also taken against erring foreign employers by refusing to allow further deployment of Indian workers for them.

(iv) To check illegal emigration Government have recently arranged to carry out checking on a 24-hour basis at the points of exit so that no unauthorised person emigrates in an illegal manner. Earlier, surprise checks were being made occasionally which were not proving effective. The Emigration Rules, 1923 are being suitably amended to provide for stricter control over the recruiting agents and regulation of deployment of Indian workers abroad. These Rules have been published in the Gazette for inviting objections and are expected to be finalised shortly.

(v) Steps have been initiated to replace the existing Emigration Act, 1922 by a fresh Act with the twin objectives of (i) facilitating smooth and speedy deployment of Indian workers and (ii) regulating the system of overseas recruitment more effectively with deterrent penalty for infringement of the provisions of the Act.

(vi) The Report of the Overseas Employment Committee has been received and is under active consideration of Government. Suitable measures for further improving the system of deployment of Indian workers abroad will be taken as soon as decision on the recommendations of the Report is taken.

(vii) A delegation led by the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Labour and consisting of officers dealing with the subject in the Ministries of External Affairs, Labour and Industry visited in February last to some of the Gulf countries where large number of Indian workers are employed. The delegation met Indian workers, foreign employers and the Indian community in general. It discussed with them what further measures should be taken to ensure easy and smooth flow of Indian workers for employment abroad and to prevent their exploitation by unscrupulous agents as well as irresponsible foreign employers. The procedure is being streamlined in the light of the observations made by this delegation.

(viii) In order to check unauthorised emigration, a copy of the specific permission granted to the recruiting agent for deployment of Indian workers is endorsed to the Air India.

Request for financial assistance for medical facilities by the Orissa Government

*446. SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTI:
SHRI BHAIKAB CHANDRA
MAHANTI: SHRI
S. W. DHABE:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a memorandum was submitted by the Orissa Government to him during his visit to the State on the 6th February, 1979 requesting for Central assistance of a sum of rupees sixty lakhs for the purchase of equipment necessary for development of Cardiology and Thoracic