

Indian labour in many hundreds | because they were able to give them very nominal salaries and the employees were supposed to live in secluded colonies on the outskirts of the city so that they would not mix with the rest of the population. For an Indian national this is a very humiliating situation. The British firm make, all the profit and the Indian labourers go without anything. I want to know what immediate action is being taken by the Government in this matter, otherwise, it will always be said that India has a bad image abroad. Attention should be paid to this situation so that the image of India abroad is not damaged.

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: I am afraid there is a little confusion or lack of information; otherwise, the honourable Member, who is generally extremely well-informed, might not have raised this question in the form in which she has done now. As far as the matter that she has raised is concerned, it refers to a company Waste Management Saudi Pritchard, which is a joint venture. It is not correct to say that the company has recruited people that Indian labourers have been deployed in the service of this company only for doing menial work of the kind that the honourable Member has referred to. The company has employed or Indian workers have been deployed in the service of this venture for number of kinds of work, and I do not think it will be fair to say at all that a small part of these workers are engaged in any kind of menial work. A complaint of this kind did come to us. But the complaint was about the maltreatment of some of the Indian employees in the employ of this company. We have taken up the matter with the Indian Embassy in Jeddah and have asked them to investigate into the complaint and send us a report. One employee of this company also wrote a letter to us conveying some complaint. But within ten days of the receipt of the letter after we have

written to our Embassy in Jeddah to investigate into this matter, the complainant himself wrote to us again withdrawing his complaint. However, in spite of the fact that the complaint has been withdrawn, we are proceeding with our efforts to find out the truth about this complaint from our Embassy in Jeddah.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: My information is based on a report in the international press which appeared in London and France. Has that report been contradicted by our Embassy officials?

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: It is precisely because we are anxious to have the information that we have requested our Embassy to give a detailed report on the situation.

SHRIMATI LEELA DAMODARA MENON: May I know whether the Government of India has sent two persons to find out the conditions of employment in the Gulf countries? If so, and if they have returned, what is the report that they have submitted to the Government? Also reports are coming from Oman and other countries.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### M.Ps' Request for issue of Commemorative Stamps

\*512. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether he has received any communication from any Member of Parliament requesting issue of commemorative postage stamps in honour of
- (i) Shri Surya Sen, (ii) Shri

Trailokyantth Chakravarty Maharaj and  
(iii) Shri Mahapandit Rahul  
Sankrityayana; and

(b) what decision Government have  
taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER, OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS  
(SHRI NARAHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO  
SAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been decided to issue a  
commemorative stamp in honour of late  
Shri Suriya Sen on the 22nd March, 78 in  
the denomination of 25 paise. It is not  
possible to issue stamps in honour of Shri  
Trailokyanath Chakravarty and  
Mahapandit Rahul Sankrityayana for the  
present.

**Employees of over 40 years of Age in  
the Indian Council for Cultural  
Relations**

\*518. SHRI GUNANAND  
THAKUR SHRI PIAR  
: LALL  
KUREIL URF PIARE  
LALL TALIB; SHRI  
IBRAHIM KALANIYA: SHRI  
KHURSHED ALAM  
KHAN: SHRI JAGDISH  
JOSHL

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL  
AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) what is the number of non-  
technical employees above the age of  
sixty years who are in service in the  
Indian Council for Cultural Relations;

(b) what is the number among them  
who are on extension/ re-employment  
and since when; and

(c) what are the reasons for the grant  
of extension/ re-employment to them?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL  
AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI  
VAJPAYEE): (a) to (c) Of the total

staff strength of 282, only four em-  
ployees are above the age of sixty. All  
these four individuals have been re-  
employed temporarily because:

(i) They have the required experience.

(ii) Suitable persons were not available  
amongst existing employees to man  
these posts.

(iii) Their re-employment resulted in  
financial saving for the Council owing to  
adjustments on account of pension and  
pension equivalent of gratuity due to  
them.

**Transshipment of nuclear Fuel**

\*519. SHRI BIR CHANDRA DEB  
BURMAN: SHRI  
LAKSHMANA

MAHAPATRO: SHRI BHUPESH

GUPTA: Will the Minister of  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to  
state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the  
shipment of enriched uranium to  
India for the Tarapur nuclear power  
plants has been delayed because of the  
objection raised by the environmentalists'  
groups in U.S.A. who have asked the  
nuclear regulating Commission to hold  
public hearings before clearing the  
shipment orders; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this  
regard and what is the Government of  
India's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL  
AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJ-  
PAYEE): (a) It is a fact that environ-  
mentalists' groups in the USA have asked  
the Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
(NRC) to hold public hearings before  
clearing the shipment of enriched  
Uranium to India for the Tarapur nuclear  
power plant. If the NRC should agree to  
hold public hearings it will result in  
delaying this shipment.