

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 makes 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 or 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 However, in spite of the fact that the complaint has been withdrawn, we are proceeding with our efforts to find out the truth about this complaint from our Embassy in Jeddah.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

Trailokyanath 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 NARHARI 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 sixty years of Age in the Indian Council for Cultural Relations

*518. SHRI GUNANAND THAKUR

SHRI PIARE LALL
KUREFL URF PIARE
LALL TALIB;

SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA;

SHRI KHUSHED ALAM KHAN;

SHRI JAGMISH JOSHI;

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) (i) Of the total

staff strength of 282, only four employees 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 VAJPAYEE): (a) It is a fact that environmentalists' 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.