

(c) The remote areas station namely Port Blair, Aizwal, Car Nicobar, Leh and Kavaratti shall be connected through the gateway stations of Delhi and Madras.

**Enquiry into the immigration of Indians to Iran**

1129. DR. LOKESH CHANDRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 395 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th November, 1978 and state:

(a) the number of Indian national\* repatriated from Iran from August to October, 1978;

(b) whether any enquiry was conducted, to find out the details of the employment agents who arranged their entry into Iran; and

(c) whether Government have received any detailed report from the Indian Embassy at Tehran in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU): (a) During the period August to October 1978, 1150 Indian nationals were repatriated from Iran.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. Government have received detailed reports from our mission at Tehran about agents allegedly assisting illegal emigration to that country. Ministry of Home Affairs and State authorities concerned have been requested to institute enquiries against these agents.

**V. S. policy regarding South Asia**

1130. SHRI RABI RAY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement made by Mr. David Newsom, U.S. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs during one of his recent addresses to the Council of Foreign Relations\* in

New York about the definition of South Asia, if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) whether the statement is indicative of a shift in U.S. policy towards South Asia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU): (a) Government are aware of the address delivered by Mr. David Newsom, U.S. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs before the Council on Foreign Relations in New York on 18th October, 1978. On the definition of South Asia Mr. Newsom is reported to have stated inter alia "Even the definition of South Asia is a shifting thing. It was once defined as the subcontinent. Today there is emerging clearly a commonness of interest and a growing intercourse between all those nations which were the world of Abdul Qadir Gaylani— those which stretch from the Red Sea to the eastern borders of the subcontinent. It is of our relations with this area that I shall speak today".

(b) It is too early to judge whether this represents a change in U.S. policy towards South Asia since Mr. Newsom's reported statement of October 18, 1978.

**Welfare measures for the unorganised agricultural labour in the country**

1131. SHRI RABI RAY: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have undertaken any welfare measures for the unorganised agricultural labour in the rural areas of the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI LARANG SAI): (a) and (b) Promotion of the well-being and welfare of