

(b) and (c) M/s. Bharat Cooperative Ltd., M/s. Sabarkanta District Co-operative Purchase and Sale Union Ltd., and a few cooperative Societies from Meghalaya have approached SAIL for allotment of G. C. Sheets. Discussions have also been held by SAIL officials with the representatives of the Societies and certain supplies have also been made to the Sabarkanta Society.

(d) Their requests have been considered and necessary action taken by SAIL. Besides large tonnages have been rushed to different cyclone and flood affected States to meet the requirements of weaker sections.

Opening of a Public Call Office in Ghoksadanga Post Office in Jalpaiguri Division of West Bengal

*435. SHRI PRASENJIT BARMAN:
SHRIMATI PRATIMA BOSE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation for opening a public telephone call office at Ghoksadanga Post Office in the Jalpaiguri Division of West Bengal Circle.

(b) if so, by when the public telephone call office is likely to be opened there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) No representation has been received during the last one year for opening a Public Call Office at Ghoksadanga in Jalpaiguri Division of West Circle.

(b) The proposal is under sanction and the Public Call office at Ghoksadanga is likely to be opened within a year.

Telephone Bills of Union Ministers

*436. SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA:
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the expen-

diture incurred on telephone calls made by each Union Minister during the last three months from his residential telephones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the house as soon as it becomes available.

Existence of an Organised Racket in Travel Business

*437. SHRI PRAKASH MEHROTRA:
SHRIMATI HAMIDA HABIB-ULLAH:
SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA NAIDU:
SHRI GURUDEV GUPTA:
SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Australian High Commission in New Delhi has recently drawn the attention of the Government of India to the existence of an organised racket in travel business;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what steps Government are taking in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAEYEE): (a) No Sir. However, Government have seen reports which appeared recently in the press on the unauthorised activities of travel agents in Punjab assisting emigration of job seekers to Australia. Some further details were also made available to the Ministry by an official of the Australian High Commission who had visited Punjab.

(b) According to the Australian High Commission official, their High Commission had been getting a large number of applications from Punjab,

after the recent announcement of the Australian Government on the liberalisation of their immigration policy. As the Mission had suspected that the unusually large number of applications were on account of a racket, they deputed an official to visit Punjab to focus the attention of the people and authorities on the existence of such a racket.

(c) Government of India are already in touch with State Governments on the question of unauthorised agents assisting illegal emigration to various countries. Government of Punjab is being asked to look into the racket referred to in the press reports.

Racket for Exploitation of Job Seekers Abroad

*438. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA
SULTAN:

SHRI SYED AHMAD

HASHMI:

SHRI SAT PAUL MITTAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item which appeared in the 'Evening News' New Delhi of the 30th June, 1978 regarding the operation of a racket for exploitation of job-seekers abroad;

(b) whether it is a fact that the father of a boy had made a representation to the Prime Minister for the release of his son who had landed in Pakistani Jail at Quetta in connection with the said racket and for taking action against the racketeers; and

(c) if so, what action Government are taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) Yes Sir, Government have seen a report in the "Evening News", New Delhi of June 30, 1978, regarding an agent alleged to have assisted illegal emigration of a group of Indian job seekers to Kabul, who in their effort to go to Iran from

Kabul were arrested by Pakistan authorities for reportedly trespassing the Pakistani territory.

(b) Yes Sir. The father of one of the job seekers had made a representation to the Prime Minister seeking his assistance for the release of his son who is stated to be in a jail at Quetta, Pakistan. He had also requested action against the agent responsible for taking his son to Kabul.

(c) Government have instructed the Indian Embassy in Islamabad to get in touch with the Government of Pakistan for ascertaining the welfare and whereabouts of the arrested person. The Embassy's report is awaited. The agent, who is stated to have taken the job seekers to Kabul has been arrested by the police, who have also registered a case against him.

Employment Guarantee Scheme

*439. DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:
SHRI BAPURAOJI MARO-
TRAOJI DESHMUKH:
SHRI KALP NATH RAI:
SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN
SINGH:

Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Maharashtra Government propose to launch an Employment Guarantee Scheme in the State from the 9th August, 1978;

(b) whether any similar scheme to provide employment guarantee to the unemployed is under the Central Government's consideration; and

(c) if so, whether the Central Government propose to bring forward a Bill before the Parliament in this regard and also to incorporate therein the provision of 'right to work' to every individual?