

MR. CHAIRMAN: No more questions from you; please sit down.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: During the period of Emergency there was a lot of tom-tomming about abolition of what was called bonded labour...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please be brief, otherwise, the time will be over.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: I will have finished in five seconds.

Has the Government any information as to the actual number of labourers who were released from any bonds during the period of Emergency? Has the Government got any knowledge whether any such bonded labour exists now?

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: On a number of occasions these figures have been made available to the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Madhavan.

SHRI K. K. MADHAVAN: My first complaint is that because I am black in colour, I cannot get attention from the Chair. You don't look at me. You allow speeches...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You put your supplementary.

SHRI K. K. MADHAVAN: No, I refuse to put any question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour over.

WRITTEN, ANSWERS TO QUESTION

Applications for the issue of Passports

♦274. SHRI DHARAMCHAND JAIN:
SHRI DAYANAND SAHAYA:
SHRI SITARAM KESRI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of applications for passports received from the 1st July, 1977 to the 30th June, 1978; and

(b) what is the number of applicants out of them who have been issued passports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. KUNDU): (a) A total of 12,40,012 applications for passports had been received during the period 1st July, 1977 to 30th June, 1978;

(b) A total of 12,40,552 passports had been issued during the above period. This would also include passports granted on the basis of applications received during the period prior to 1st July, 1977.

Schemes for rehabilitation of bonded labour

♦275. SHRI F. M. KHAN:
PROF D. P. CHATTOPAD-
HYAYA:
SHRI N. K. P. SALVE:

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

(a) whether Government have formulated any schemes for the rehabilitation of persons released from the bonded labour system;

(b) whether the Central Government have issued any guidelines to the State Governments in the matter; recently; and

(c) if so, what are the broad features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI LARANG SAI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for assisting the State Governments, on a matching-grant basis, in the implementation of their rehabilitation programmes has been envisaged with an initial outlay of Rs. one crore for the year 1978-79. The guidelines circulated to the State Governments for the purpose of preparing schemes of rehabilitation and for regulating the allocation and release of funds, provide for sustenance allowance for the period between the release and rehabilitation of bonded labour, and drawing up of the Schemes at village)

beneficiary-level which may be land-based; non-land based; and/or skill/craft-based, suited to local needs and conditions.

Visit of the Minister of External Affairs to China

*276. SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA:
SHRI N. K. P. SALVE
SHRI KALPNATHRAI:

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

(a) what are the dates of his proposed visit to China; and

(b) what are the details of the agenda for his meetings with the Chinese Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. KUNDU): (a) and (b) While the precise timing for the visit by the Minister of External Affairs to China remains to be fixed in accordance with the mutual convenience of the two Governments, it is hoped that the visit will take place during the coming months. It is envisaged that the talks will cover a large number of issues. The visit would be part of the process of promoting normalisation and improvement of relations between India and China on the basis of Panch-Bheel.

Organisational set-up for the agricultural workers

*277. SHRI V. P. MUNUSAMY: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the organisational set-up in various States and Union Territories to safeguard the interests of agricultural workers in the country; and

(b) whether there is any proposal under the Central Government's consideration to advise the State Governments to create separate Rural Labour Divisions in the Labour

Departments of the State Governments and to appoint rural labour inspectors at the village and block levels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE \ MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI LARANG SAI): (a) and (b) Presently, the main legislation to safeguard the interest of agricultural workers is the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. Almost all the State Governments have set up requisite machinery to ensure its enforcement at village and block levels. State Governments |Union Territories have been recently urged to set up Standing Committees/rural labour cells to look after the problems of rural workers.

Letter from India's High Commissioner in Nigeria to the Medical Council of India

*278. SHRI KALP NATH RAI:
SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH:
SHRI LOKESH CHANDRA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's High Commissioner in Nigeria wrote a letter to the Medical Council of India regarding working and living conditions of Indian doctors in that country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the number of doctors who were repatriated to India from Nigeria during the years, 1976 and 1977 and up to the 15th July during the year 1978?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. KUNDU): (a) It is a fact that an official of the Indian High Commission, not the High Commissioner himself, wrote a letter to the Secretary, Medical Council of India, New Delhi, regarding the living conditions of Indian doctors in Nigeria.