

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) No.

(b) To regulate the service conditions of Beedi workers, a Central Act called The Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act was enacted in 1966.

(c) The Act could not be implemented uniformly in all States as some of the provisions were challenged in various High Courts and struckdown. Appeals were filed in the Supreme Court against the decisions of the High Courts. Supreme Court has since disposed of these appeals in a group on 31st January, 1974.

Illegal emigration to dubai by Indians

116. SHRI SYED HUSSAIN : SHRI GOPAL BARBORA: SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH: SHRI MAHENDRA BAHADUR SINGH : SHRIMATI LAKSHMI KU-MARI CHUNDAWAT: SHRI O. P. TYAGI: SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHAN-KAR ADIVAREKAR : SHRIMATI RATHNABAI SREENIVASA RAO : SHRI M. S. ABDUL KHA-DER: SHRI SAWAISINGH SISO-DIA: SHRI ABU ABRAHAM :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 315 Indians who went to Dubai without any valid travel documents, were sent back to India in a small boat which subsequently sank on December, 10, 1973 killing 163 persons;

(b) whether Government enquired into the circumstances under which these persons were smuggled out without valid travel documents; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Indian Mission at Dubai disowned them; and

(d) what steps Government have taken to secure the release of those surviving persons who were later put into jail?'

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) According to information available to the Government, 216 persons, believed to be mostly Indians, had reached Sharjah in December last without any travel documents. The authorities of the Union of Arab Emirates treated them as illegal immigrants and deported them in a launch. The launch capsized off the Sharjah Coast, and about 46 Indian and three non-Indians are believed to have been drowned, the others having been rescued. 137 of the survivors are in UAE jail, pending finalisation of investigations.

(b) The matter is under enquiry.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Our Mission in the area has taken up the matter with the UAE authorities with the object of securing a satisfactory settlement.

Indo-Pak talks at Prime Ministers' level

117. SHRI SAWAISINGH SISO-DIA:
SHRI SYED HUSSAIN:
SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:
SHRI MAHENDRA BAHADUR SINGH : SHRI M. K. MOHTA: SHRIMATI LAKSHMI KU-MARI CHUNDAWAT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any communication from Pakistan for holding a talk at Prime Ministers' level to resolve the issues between the two countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?