

Substandard concrete in Government buildings

†*234. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that construction companies are using substandard concrete in Government buildings or bridges being constructed all over the country;

(b) whether all agencies have been warned in this regard by the Chief Technical Examiner of CVC;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether any person has been made accountable by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA RAY): (a) CPWD, NBCC and DDA are the main construction agencies under the Ministry of Urban Development. No case of using substandard concrete in Government buildings/structures has been reported by them.

(b) and (c) The Chief Technical Examiner of Central Vigilance Commission has advised agencies *vide* Circular No.34/10/10 dated 07.10.2010 to follow provisions of IS-456:2000 for designing the concrete mix.

(d) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Workers in Gulf countries

*235. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any data regarding Indians working in Gulf countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has any plans to provide welfare mechanism to the returnees from Gulf countries?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) Indian workers emigrate for seeking employment in all categories of work ranging from low skilled to high skilled professional jobs. Data is available only for ECR (Emigration Check Required) category of workers going to ECR countries. This category includes those workers who have not passed class 10 level school certificate and are emigrating to 17 notified countries for employment. The details of ECR Category workers who emigrated to gulf countries (six countries comprising Gulf Cooperation Council) during 2008, 2009 and 2010 (upto 31.10.2010) are given in Statement (See below).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.