

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Two cases of non-payment of wages to Indian workers by Singapore Construction Companies have been brought to the notice of the Government. The High Commission of India, Singapore intervened effectively. The High Commissioner met the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Manpower, Government of Singapore. As a result the workers were able to get partial payment of their dues plus free return air passage to India.

(c) There are standing instructions to the Indian Missions and Posts to safeguard the interest of all Indian nationals including workers employed abroad.

New scheme for interest rate on employees provident fund

133. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to offer differential rates of interest on Employees Provident Fund to workers with different EPF deposits, the rate being higher for low deposits below certain levels;

(b) if so, the details of the new scheme; and

(c) the reaction of different national labour unions thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Job opportunities in agricultural and industrial sectors

134. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that job opportunities in agricultural and industrial sectors of the country are on the decline; and

(b) the estimated annual rates of increase in the number of job seekers in both the sectors?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) Estimates of employment and