

**Exploitation of labourers from Odisha**

382. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any allegation of serious exploitation of Migrant Labour of Odisha in South Africa, Central Africa, Sudan and Lebanon;

(b) whether Odisha State Government has written to Government of India; and

(c) if so, the details of action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI):

(a) and (b) Sir. A reference from the State Government of Odisha was received regarding the non payment of assured wages and non-providence of proper food and shelter to workmen from Odisha who had been deployed to work in Power Plant construction in Sudan.

One more reference was received from the State Government of Odisha regarding the harassment of Oriya workers working in the Kosti Thermal Project, Kosti (Sudan).

Another reference was received from the Odisha Government with respect to the grievances of workers at a Central Plant under construction in the Central African Republic.

References regarding the exploitation of Migrant Labour of Odisha in South Africa and Lebanon have not been received.

(c) The matter was taken up by the Ministry with the Indian Mission in Khartoum. They have reported on 18-04-2011 that out of 216 workers working with a construction company, Sudan, 198 were sent back by 31-12-2010 and 18 workers agreed to continue and were allowed to work at the site.

Similarly, the Indian Mission at Khartoum intimated on 26-09-2011 that 68 workers from Odisha had been repatriated from Kosti Thermal Project, Sudan.

Further, with the intervention of Indian Mission, Kinshasa, all the 23 workers from Odisha were repatriated from the Central African Republic

**Funds allocated to BRGF**

383. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has dispatched the full amount of funds allocated to the Backward Regions Grant Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the spending of the funds, State-wise;