

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government of Kerala have submitted any proposal in this regard;

(f) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(g) whether the Union Government have demanded any compensation for the property and assets left behind by these Indians in Kuwait and other Gulf Countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI). (a) 1,47,839 Indians are estimated to have returned from the Gulf with the assistance of Govt. of India.

(b) Kuwait: Approx. 150

Iraq: None

Saudi Arabia: Not available

(c) and (d) The Government of India have not so far embarked upon any scheme to rehabilitate the repatriated Indians from Gulf Countries. As regards the return of our nationals Government of India has taken up the matter with Government of Kuwait and our people have started going back. In addition, Govt. have also liberalised emigration procedures.

(e) and (f) The Government have received a memorandum from Chief Minister of Kerala referring to, inter alia, the measures for early rehabilitation of the returnees and setting up of a committee and fund for this purpose. These recommendations are under consideration.

(g) According to the relevant UN resolutions, Iraq is liable to pay compensation. The information on claims for compensation from Indian nationals is presently being collected and such information in consolidated manner will be submitted to the UN Compensation Commission. As regards recoverable assets our nationals will be given all possible assistance.

Shortage of High and Medium Grade Manganese

315. **SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL:** Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state.

(a) whether some of the Manganese Alloy producers have been forced either to cut down production or shut down furnaces due to shortage of high and medium grade manganese;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) There was no shortage of manganese alloys required for steel production in the country during 1990-91. Some units of manganese alloy producers, on some occasions, may have faced shortage of manganese ore which could also be as a result of absence of planning, inadequate stocks to take care of fluctuation in ore supplies, etc.

Telephone Connections in Chandigarh, Manimajra and Panchkula

316. **SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL.** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state.

(a) the total number of telephone connections provided to Chandigarh, Manimajra and Panchkula;

(b) the number of new lines provided in those places during the last three years; and

(c) the total number of personnel working in the Department at Chandigarh before and after the increase in the number of lines?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) :

(a) Chandigarh	22519
Manimajra	252
Panchkula	2300
(b) Chandigarh	5583
Manimajra	15
Panchkula	1633

(c) Total number of personnel working at Chandigarh before and after the increase in lines is 1104.

[*Translation*]

Steel Stockyard at Jodhpur

317. SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state.

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to set up a Steel stockyard at Jodhpur; and

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

[*English*]

Rapid Action Force to Quell Communal Riots

318. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have under consideration any proposal to set up a composite rapid action force to quell communal riots; and

(b) if so, the steps so far taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It will not be in the public interest to disclose its details at this stage.

[*Translation*]

Opening of Post Offices in All Gram Panchayats of Saharsa District

319. SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to open Post Offices in all the Gram Panchayats of Saharsa district in Bihar;

(b) if so, the number of villages where Post Offices are proposed to be set up; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) (a) No, Sir. The Government does not contemplate to open post offices in all Gram Panchayats of Saharsa district

(b) It is proposed to open six post offices in villages of Saharsa District during 1991-92.

(c) It is not possible to provide post offices in all the Gram Panchayats as they do not fulfil the norms for opening of Post offices.

[*English*]

Talks with Planning Minister of Pakistan

320 DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he met the Planning Minister of Pakistan recently;