

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) The progress of implementation of NREP in different States/UTs. has by and large been satisfactory and the programme objectives have generally been achieved.

(b) All efforts are being made to improve the implementation of the programme. No basic changes are, however, proposed in the programme content at present.

(c) The Central Government's budget for 1985-86 proposes a sum of Rs. 230 crores for NREP. This is at the same level as 1984-85 and will be enhanced later, if required.

Broadcasting of Parliament News

3070. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether "Parliament news" at present is being broadcast in Hindi and English languages only ; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take necessary steps for broadcasting Parliament news every day during the Session periods through the A.I.R. Stations in every State in their respective Official language ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N.GADGIL) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Today in Parliament or Sansad Sameeksha is relayed by all the stations in the net work.

[Translation]

Skilled and Unskilled Indian Workers in Gulf Countries

3071. PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of skilled and unskilled

Indian labourers working in Libya, Bahrain, Qatar, U.A.E. the Gulf countries ;

(b) whether these labourers have been employed in private agencies or companies who are paid less there as compared to the labourers from Europe and other Asian countries ; and

(c) if so, whether in order to avoid discrimination and economic exploitation of these labourers Government would hold negotiations with the embassies of these countries so as to arrive at some justified conclusion ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : (a) The number of Indian workers, skilled and unskilled, presently working in Libya, Baharain, Qatar, UAE and the Gulf Countries is as under :

U.A.E.	2,50,000
Saudi Arabia	2,40,000
Kuwait	1,15,000
Oman	1,00,000
Qatar	40,000
Libya	40,000
Baharain	30,000
Yemen Arab Republic	8,000
People Democratic Republic of Yemen	2,000

(b) Indian workers are employed in these countries both in private as well as public and Governmental agencies. The wages of these workers compare favourably with those paid the workers of Asian countries while wages of Indian workers are by and large lower than the wages paid to the corresponding categories of European workers.

(c) Whenever any instance of discrimination or economic exploitation of these workers comes to the notice of the Government, the matter is taken up with the Government of the country concerned, through Indian Missions.