

**Post of Labourer in Rashtrapati  
Bhavan Press**

5526. SHRI NATVARSINH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain guidelines have been issued on the period of validity of panels for the candidates selected through direct recruitment;

(b) whether these guidelines have not been followed in respect of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribe candidates for appointment of labourer in Government of India Press, Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi; and

(c) if so, the reasons thereof and steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) The guidelines are being followed.

(c) Does not arise.

**Comensation to Press Workers in  
Lieu of Public Holidays**

5527. SHRI GANGA RAM: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Public holidays were declared on 24 Decemler, 1987 and 22 January, 1988 to mourn the death of high dignatories;

(b) whether Government of India Presses were also closed on these days;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether any proposal is being contemplated to compensate the Press Workers by allowing them compensatory holidays in lieu of these days?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, public holidays were declared on 24.12.87 and 22.1.88 under the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881.

(b) and (c) Government of India Presses are Industrial Establishments and are governed by the provisions of the

Factories Act and the Industrial Disputes Act. Industrial Establishments of the Central Government are not to be closed on the death of any high dignitary except in the event of death of the President or any other dignitary specified by the Central Government. As such, the declaration of public holidays under the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 does not automatically cover Industrial Establishments. The Government of India Presses were, therefore, not closed on 24.12.87 and 22.1.88.

(d) In view of above, the question of allowing the workers of the Government of India Presses any compensatory holidays does not arise.

**Social Insurance Scheme for Indians  
Employed in Gulf Countries**

5528. SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the social insurance scheme for Indians employed in Saudia Arabia and other Gulf countries;

(b) whether it is a fact that the benefits under the scheme have not yet been extended to the expatriate workers; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government for payment of the amount under the scheme to the expatriate workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Indian workers employed in Gulf countries are entitled to social insurance benefits as per respective local labour laws including those of Saudi Arabia.

(b) and (c) The expatriate workers who were earlier contributing to General Organisation of Social Insurance (GOSI) in Saudi Arabia have been exempted from such contribution since March, 1987. This decision was taken by Saudi authorities as majority of expatriate workers were unable to get the benefit of old-age pension because of their contractual employment. The question of refunding workers' contribution by GOSI of Saudi Arabia is yet to be decided.