

ment of Indian workers abroad for contractual employment is done by the registered recruiting agents/permit holders and not by the Government. Offices of the Protector of Emigrants have only been authorised for grant of emigration clearance to those workers whose passports are endorsed as 'Emigration Check Required' (ECR) and want to emigrate for work.

(b) During the last three years, the number of workers who have gone abroad for work after getting emigration clearance from offices of Protectors of Emigrants has been slightly over 4.00 lakh every year.

(c) and (d) The Directory of the registered recruiting agents is already available and is a priced publication which is updated from time to time. The updated edition of the Directory is under publication.

(e) The welfare and interests of the Indian workers abroad are safeguarded through the officials of Ministry of External Affairs working in the Indian Missions concerned. Our Missions render every possible assistance to the workers who face any difficulty during the course of their employment with the foreign employers. In view of this no country has so far been identified for the purpose of stationing of officials of Ministry of Labour specifically for this purpose. However, the need for posting labour attaches in countries having concentration of Indian workers is being examined in consultation with the Ministry of External Affairs.

[Translation]

Firing by Pak Troops

409. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons both civilians and non-civilians killed and injured due to firing by Pak troops across the border in Jammu & Kashmir during the last three years till October, 1998;

(b) whether there is no cultivation because of firing across the border?

(c) if so, the number of villages affected and steps taken to provide security and relief to the sufferers;

(d) whether a large number of families from border villages have been forced to migrate to some other places; and

(e) the steps taken to check such migration?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(b) As per available information, in some areas of Jammu along the border/LOC, no cultivation could take place due to firing from across the border.

(c) and (e) 2955 families have been affected in Bishnah, Samba and Ranjeet Singh Pura Tehsils of Jammu district, and Hiranagar Tehsil of Kathua district. The State Government have provided free rations at the rate of 5 kg. per head for one month for the affected persons, with provision for increase after assessing the extent of loss. In addition, an amount of Rs. 1.00 lakh to be paid to the next of kin in case of loss of life, Rs. 75,000 in cases of permanent disability, Rs. 5,000 for serious injuries and Rs. 500 to 1,000 in cases of minor injuries, have been announced by the State Government.

Due to firing on the border, some villagers have temporarily migrated to the Tehsil Headquarters, the majority of them have since returned to their villages.

The BSF are providing necessary protection to the farmers in their agricultural activities in the border areas, and a security bundh is being constructed in the Loundi village of Hiranagar Tehsil to augment the security to the villagers.

Demand and Production of Fertilizers

410. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to increase the subsidy on Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers;

(b) if so, the additional expenditure to be incurred on this account and the increase in budget deficit for the current year;

(c) the steps taken to ensure adequate and timely supplies of these fertilizers for the ensuing Rabi season; and

(d) the demand and supply for the cultivation of Rabi crop for this year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL):

(a) The final rates of concession on Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers for the year 1998-99 have not been announced under the Concession Scheme of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation. In the meantime, the manufacturers/importers had been made payments at the rate of 90% of the concession amounts which were prevalent during Rabi 1997-98. For Rabi 1998-