

### Issuance of Work Permits

361. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item Captioned "Work permits for illegal migrants Deportation issue a closed chapter: Advani" appearing in "The Assam Tribune" dated September 10, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The proposal is to issue multipurpose National Identity Cards to all citizens of 14 years and above. Persons below 14 years are to be compulsorily registered under the Registration of Birth & Deaths Act, 1969. The names of such persons are to be included in their father's/mother's cards. Separate coloured cards are proposed to be issued to non-citizens. The multipurpose National Identity Cards will help in easy identification of persons to check illegal immigration and infiltration and to trace criminals and subversives. These cards will also be used for the purposes of issuing passports, driving licences, ration cards, health care admission in educational institutions, employment in public/private sector, life and general insurance as also for maintenance of land records and urban property holdings.

### World Bank to Study Poverty Alleviation Programmes in A.P.

362. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that World Bank has decided to send a team to Andhra Pradesh to study poverty alleviation programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh worked satisfactorily to impress the World Bank in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details of the loans provided by the World Bank in this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

### Asthma due to Pollution in Delhi and other Metropolitan Cities

363. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that 95 per cent population of Delhi and other metropolitans of the country are suffering from the respiratory problems such as asthma due to pollution;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check pollution;

(c) whether the Government propose to educate the people in pollution preventive measures through Doordarshan and Camps; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) The Indian Council of Medical Research has reported that there is no direct evidence to suggest that air pollution by itself can be the cause of asthma. Allergens like pollen, house-dust and certain food articles can however, trigger off asthma attacks. However, in a sample survey conducted by the Vallabhbai Patel Chest Institute in nine randomly selected Delhi Schools it was inter-alia found that the prevalence of asthma was 12%.

(b) to (d) The steps taken by the Government to reduce pollution include the following;

1. The Government has formulated a comprehensive Policy Statement for Abatement of Pollution which envisages integration of environmental and economic aspects of development planning, lays stress on preventive aspects of pollution abatement and promotion of technological inputs to reduce industrial pollution;

2. Environmental guidelines have been evolved for siting and operation of industries;

3. Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and also for the shifting of industries from congested areas. Custom and excise duty exemptions are provided to the industries for pollution control/monitoring equipment;

4. A scheme for setting up of Common Effluent Treatment Plants in clusters of small scale industrial units is under implementation;

5. To promote pollution prevention in small and medium scale industries, the Government has established 15 Waste Minimisation Circles in clusters of small scale industries;

6. Emission standards for 79 categories of industries have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Besides, ambient air and water