

labourers therein during the last three years in the country are given below:

Year	Number of Accidents		Number of Persons	
	Fatal	Serious	Killed	Injured
1995	203	1025	293	1092
1996	203	940	229	1006
1997*	216	898	244	967

* Provisional.

Information relating to loss of revenue incurred on account of these accidents is not maintained.

(c) The amount of compensation is paid to the injured or families of the deceased under the Work-men's Compensation Act, 1923 the implementation of which falls under the jurisdiction of the State Governments.

(d) Provisions for safety of persons employed in mines are contained in the Mines Act, 1952, and the Rules and Regulations framed thereunder. In addition, the Directorate General of Mines Safety also issues guidelines in the form of circulars to the Managements for improving safety measures. These provisions are required to be complied with by the mine managements. The officers of the Directorate General of Mines Safety inspect mines periodically to oversee the status of compliance with the safety provisions, and take action as provided for under the Mines Act, 1952, in case of default.

Besides the legislative measures, the government is promoting safety through a number of other initiatives, such as:

- (a) conferences on safety in mines;
- (b) self-regulation by managements;
- (c) workers' participation in safety management;
- (d) tripartite and bipartite reviews at various levels;
- (e) training of work persons;
- (f) observance of safety weeks and safety campaigns; and
- (g) national safety awards (Mines).

[English]

Pakistan's support to Hurriyat Conference Delegation

1929. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hurriyat Conference Delegation of Kashmir has been assured by continued support by Pakistan's High Commission recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) Pakistan has been aiding and abetting militancy in Jammu and Kashmir by sending mercenaries, arms and ammunition and providing financial support and training to the militants. Reports indicate that officials of the Pak High Commission, New Delhi have assured the Hurriyat Leaders of their continued support.

(c) There is no restriction on any person for visiting any Embassy/High Commission and meeting the Diplomats. However, Government is keeping a close watch on the activities of Hurriyat Leaders. In case any violation of law comes to the notice of the Government, action will be initiated accordingly.

Malta Boat Tragedy

1930. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Malta Boat tragedy of the Greak coast last year has failed to deter the continued migration of Indian workers by illegal means;

(b) if so, the number of such migrants apprehended in the process since the Malta tragedy; and

(c) the effective steps taken to prevent such migration?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) and (b) Government continues to receive reports of the presence abroad of Indian immigrants whose residence status is not legal. As per information available, about 8600 Indian nationals have been apprehended since the Malta boat tragedy in December, 1996 in various foreign countries, on account of their allegedly illegal residence status.

(c) The following steps have been/are being taken to prevent illegal migration:

(i) all immigration authorities examine genuineness and validity of the travel documents including Protector of Emigrants (POE) endorsement, by comparing the same with the specimen signatures available with them and also scrutinise their genuineness by examining security features with the help of ultra-violet lamp, magnifying glass and questionable document examiner. Further the immigration officers resort to computerised screening to find out whether the passenger figures adversely. Instructions have been/are issued from time to time to the immigration authorities at international airports advising them to be more vigilant in such matters.

(ii) Home Departments of the State Governments have been advised to keep a strict vigil on the activities of the unauthorised agents.