

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent (in August-September, 98) visit of the Indian team led by the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission to New York/ USA, the US Deputy Secretary of States conveyed US-President's keenness to visit New Delhi by September end; and

(b) if so, whether the visit has since materialised and with what results in terms of agreements and MOUs signed during the visit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The dates of the visit of the US President to India which are to be decided by mutual agreements have not yet been finalised. Both sides have agreed that the visit should take place in a positive atmosphere.

(b) Does not arise.

लिबिया कि जेलों में भारतीय नागरिक

554. श्री बरजिन्दर सिंह :

श्री बलवन्त सिंह रामवालिया :

क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान दिनांक 22 अगस्त, 1998 के दैनिक "इकोनोमिक्स टाइम्स" में "पजांबी वर्कर्स इन लिबिया गेट ए रा डील" शीर्षक से प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह सच है कि लिबिया में भारतीय मूल के नागरिक अभी भी जेलों में बंद हैं;

(ग) यदि हां, तो अक्तूबर, 1998 में उनकी संख्या कितनी थी;

(घ) क्या सरकार ने भारतीय मूल के इन नागरिकों को जेलों से रिहा कराने के लिए कोई कार्रवाई की है;

(ङ) यदि हां, तो क्या कार्रवाई की गई है और इन नागरिकों के कब तक मुक्त हो जाने की सम्भावना है ?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सोमपाल) : (क) 22 अगस्त, 1998 के "इकोनोमिक्स टाइम्स" में कथित शीर्षक के समाचार की सरकार को जानकारी नहीं है। यथापि, 26 अगस्त, 1998 को एक समाचार पत्र में

इस प्रकार के शीर्षक से छपे समाचार पर सरकार ने गौर किया है।

(ख) और (ग) 31.10.98 की स्थिति के अनुसार 12 भारतीय राष्ट्रिक लीबिया के जेल में थे। भारतीय मूल के विदेशी राष्ट्रिकी के संबंध में सूचना प्राप्त करने का कोई स्रोत अभी सरकार के पास नहीं है।

(घ) और (ङ) जेल में रखे गए 12 में से 10 भारतीय राष्ट्रिकों को 05.11.1998 को जमानत पर रिहा कर दिया गया था। शेष दो भारतीय राष्ट्रिकों में से एक तो लीबिया के न्यायालय द्वारा सुनाई गई सजा काट रहा है और दूसरे को उसकी कार से हुई ट्रैफिक दुर्घटना के संबंध में लीबियाई पुलिस ने बंदी बनाकर रखा हुआ है। दूसरे की रिहाई के लिए सरकार बराबर प्रयास कर रही है।

Misrepresentation of Kashmir Borders

555. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR:
SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Hungary and Togo Governments in an unusual manner have misrepresented and distorted the Kashmir borders in the maps;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) An article on similar lines as the question was published in the "Times of India" some months ago. The alleged misrepresentation/distortion does not relate to official maps but to a sketch in a stamp brought out by Togo and to a cancellation mark issued in 1989 by Hungary.

(b) and (c) Whenever cases of distortion or misrepresentation of India's external boundaries come to our notice, the issue is immediately taken up with the concerned authorities with a view to its rectification.

Approach to South Africa

556. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR:
SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:
DR. D. VENKATESHWAR
RAO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, in his recent communication to the Prime Minister, the former Indian High Commissioner in South Africa, had criticised Government's diplomacy towards the South African regime;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) The Prime Minister has received no communication from the former Indian High Commissioner in South Africa criticising Government's diplomacy towards the South African regime.

Illegal Indian Immigrants

557. SHRI RAGHAVJI:
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR
MALHOTRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of illegal Indian immigrants abroad;

(b) whether there has been a spurt, recently in their number;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) in what way Government propose to contain this spurt?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) As per information available, about 1,38,373 Indian nationals have been found to be allegedly staying illegally in various countries abroad.

(b) Government continues to receive reports about the presence of Indians staying abroad illegally. However there is

no specific information to suggest that there has been any sudden spurt in their numbers recently.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) In order to check the problem of illegal migration, following guidelines and procedural safeguards have been put in place:—

(i) It is obligatory for all unskilled, semi-skilled and certain categories of skilled workers proceeding abroad for employment to get emigration clearance from the Ministry of Labour;

(ii) It is a cognizable offence for anyone to advertise in a newspaper soliciting applications for employment abroad, without quoting the Ministry of Labour's licence number;

(iii) As the immigration authorities act on behalf of the Protector General of Emigrants, the Protectors of Emigrants are under instructions to conduct surprise checks to see that the clauses of the Emigration Act 1983 are strictly implemented and persons are not allowed to travel without emigration clearances;

(iv) Indian diplomatic missions and posts abroad are under instructions to intimate the names of fraudulent recruiting agents-employers to the Protector General of Emigrants, Ministry of Labour to prevent recurrence of such malpractices;

(v) Complaints received against recruiting agents by the Ministry of Labour are examined in consultation with the concerned Indian diplomatic missions and posts abroad and action for suspension/cancellation of their registration certificates is taken according to the merits of the cases under the Emigration Act, 1983.