

granted for jobs for which a large number of qualified Indians are available. Suitable instructions/guidelines have been issued to the Indian Missions abroad to effectively regulate Employment and Business Visa regimes and ensure that these are issued strictly as per prescribed norms. Persons who are already in India had been directed to exit by 31.10.2009 (extendable for a short period in respect of persons engaged in some strategic/sensitive projects) and where permissible, seek re-entry on appropriate visa.

Transfer of land to an educational institution

*99. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:

SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that illegal 'No Objection Certificates' were issued to an educational institution for transfer of land near the 33 Corps in Sukna, Darjeeling; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) A 'No Objection Certificate' was issued by HQ 33 Corps on 6.2.2009 for constructing an educational institution on land adjoining Army areas. As this was contrary to an earlier decision, a Court of Inquiry has been ordered by HQ Eastern Command to investigate the circumstances in which the NOC was allowed to be given. The Court of Inquiry to investigate the matter is currently in progress.

Grant of visa to workers from China

*100. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

SHRI N. K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a large number of unskilled and semi-skilled workers from China are working in various sectors in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) on what grounds, Government has granted visas to Chinese workers to work in various fields/sectors in India;

(d) whether the permission to Chinese workers to work in India is posing serious security concern; and

(e) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the present liberalized economic environment Indian companies/organisations are awarding work for execution of projects/contracts to foreign companies, including Chinese companies. This has resulted in inflow of foreign nationals, including Chinese nationals, for execution of projects/contracts in

several sectors e.g. steel, power, etc. The project team executing such projects/contracts includes some unskilled and semi-skilled workers. Details of foreign nationals, including Chinese nationals, working in various sectors in the country are not centrally maintained.

(c) Employment/Business Visas have been granted by the Indian Missions abroad to foreign nationals, including Chinese nationals, for executing projects/contracts in India on the basis of the documentation submitted by the visa applicant/foreign company regarding the award of the project/contract to the foreign company.

(d) and (e) It has come to the notice of the Government that a number of foreign nationals, including Chinese nationals, coming for execution of projects/ contracts in India have come on Business Visa instead of the Employment Visa. The matter has, therefore, been reviewed by the Government and it has been decided that henceforth Business Visa will be issued only to *bonafide* businessmen who want to visit India to establish an industrial/business venture or to explore possibilities to set up industrial/business venture in India or who want to purchase/sell industrial products or commercial products or consumer durables etc. It has also been decided that all foreign nationals coming for execution of projects/contracts in India will have to come only on an Employment Visa and that such visa will be granted only to skilled and qualified professionals appointed at senior level, and will not be granted for jobs for which a large number of qualified Indians are available. Suitable instructions/guidelines have been issued to the Indian Missions abroad to effectively regulate Employment and Business Visa regimes and ensure that these are issued strictly as per prescribed norms. Persons who are already in India had been directed to exit by 31.10.2009 (extendable for a short period in respect of persons engaged in some strategic/sensitive projects) and, where permissible, seek re-entry on appropriate visa.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Adverse effect of FTA with ASEAN

1592. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI BALAVANT ALIASBAL APTE:

SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has signed the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with ASEAN;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government believes that this agreement will have a negative effect on Indian agriculture sector;

Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.