

- (d) No such conclusion can be inferred at this stage.
- (e) There is no reference to any displaced persons in the Report.

Refugees and Asylum seekers

***573. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of total number of refugees and asylum seekers currently residing in India;
- (b) the number of refugees who have entered the country in the past year and details of their countries of origin;
- (c) whether Government is making available essential services such as food, education and health for all refugees;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether Government has considered providing residency rights and identity cards to refugees to enable them to access welfare schemes; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

New mechanism to renumber the NHs

***574. SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT:** Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his Ministry has proposed a new mechanism to make the numbering system of National Highways more scientific and easy to remember;
- (b) if so, the salient features of the proposed system;
- (c) why the need has arisen to introduce a new system; and
- (d) by when the new system is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (d) The National Highways (NHs) in the country had been numbered as NH-1 to NH-236 series with some of the NHs having suffixes such as A, B, C and so on. This system of numbering of NHs did not enable appreciation of relative locations of the NHs or their orientations. Accordingly, the Government has recently revised the numbering system of NHs duly considering the best practices

followed World-wide. The modified numbering system of NHs enables a better appreciation of the relative locations of the NHs as well as their broad orientations as a systematic pattern of their numbering has been adopted.

As per the modified numbering system of NHs, the NHs predominantly along the North-South direction and along the East-West direction are considered as Primary Routes. The Primary Routes along the North-South direction are being numbered in increasing order from east to west direction as even numbers in 2 digits and the Primary Routes along the East-West direction are being numbered in increasing order from north to south direction as odd numbers in 2 digits. The Secondary Routes are considered as those routes which are either circumferential routes around a Primary Route or a Spur Route originating from a Primary Route. The Secondary Routes are proposed to be numbered in 3 digits, with 2 digits as same as that of the Primary Route Number and the third digit prefixing the 2 digits as either even number or odd number depending upon whether it is a circumferential route around the Primary Route or it is a spur route originating from the Primary Route. Suffixes, such as A, B, C, D, etc. have also been proposed to be used for Secondary Routes with gap numbering in order to accommodate present as well as future such routes.

The modified numbering of NHs has been notified in March, 2010.

India as preferred investment destination by Japanese Firms

*575. DR. T. SUBBRAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether against the backdrop of global slowdown, Japanese firms are increasingly preferring India as an investment destination over China;

(b) whether according to the Japanese External Trade Organization, there has been a three-fold rise in companies from Japan having operations in India;

(c) whether in 2006-07, there were approximately 100 companies from Japan having offices in India and the number increased to an impressive 300 in 2009-10;

(d) if so, to what extent this has been helpful; and

(e) which are the companies and in which sectors they are operating in India?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) According to the information provided by Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), the investment by Japanese companies in India was US\$ 8,430 million as compared US\$ 6,758 million in China in the