

Melbourne have received around 20 representations from students affected by college closures for refund of fees.

(b) Wherever educational institutions have closed down in Australia, the international students are being offered alternate placement in similar institutions. If such placements are not available or accepted, the students can opt for refund. The cases of Indian students have been taken up with the concerned authorities in Australia for relocation/refund of tuition fees.

Problem of Tamils in Sri Lanka

2015. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Tamils in Sri Lanka are leading a miserable life there;
- (b) whether the State Government of Tamil Nadu had made several request to Government to provide humanitarian help to Tamils in Sri Lanka; and
- (c) if so, the steps bring taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (c) Government of India accords the highest priority to the welfare, resettlement and rehabilitation of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Northern Sri Lanka. In June, 2009 India has announced Rs. 500 crores for relief & rehabilitation & resettlement in Northern & Eastern Sri Lanka. The immediate relief assistance included 2.5 lakh family relief packs which were mobilized by Tamil Nadu Government; deployment of an emergency field hospital for six months and two consignments of medicines for the use of the IDPs. In order to facilitate and enable rapid resettlement and rehabilitation of the IDPs, we have deployed seven demining teams; sent 3 consignments of 2600 MT each of shelter material; distributed 70,000 agricultural starters packs to revive agricultural activities; gifted 55 buses to Northern, Eastern and Central Province; conducted an artificial limb fitment camp and have also gifted 4 lakh cement bags for resettling IDP families to assist them to repair their damaged houses.

India has announced construction of 50,000 houses for the IDPs in the Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka. India is also assisting Sri Lanka in several infrastructural projects in Northern

and Eastern Sri Lanka including railway lines, harbor, cultural centre, stadium, vocational centres, etc.

Visit of Sri Lankan President

2016. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the President of Sri Lanka had recently visited India and held discussions with various leaders on different issues;
- (b) if so, the details of discussions held and outcome thereof;
- (c) whether Government had raised any concerns regarding the growing presence of the Chinese in Sri Lanka posing a threat to Indian security;
- (d) if so, the response of the Sri Lankan President in this regard; and
- (e) the details of any steps Government proposes to take to address any contentious issues with Sri Lankan Government?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (e) President Mahinda Rajapaksa of Sri Lanka visited India from June 8-11, 2010. A Joint Declaration was issued by both sides. The discussions covered the entire gamut of our relations with Sri Lanka. The President of Sri Lanka reiterated his determination to evolve a political settlement acceptable to all communities. The President of Sri Lanka expressed appreciation for India's substantial assistance to Sri Lanka for the humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and resettlement of IDPs and agreed on speedy resettlement of the remaining IDPs. India also announced a major initiative to undertake a programme to construct 50,000 houses for the IDPs in Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka.

Several bilateral initiatives were taken, including reiteration of India's support for various projects in Northern & Eastern Sri Lanka including railway line, KKS harbor, thermal power plant at Trincomalee, cultural centre, Duraipappa stadium, vocational centres, etc. Both India & Sri Lanka agreed to resume the ferry services between Colombo and Tuticorin and Talaimannar and Rameshwaram and also agreed to establish Consulates General of India in Jaffna and Hambantota. There was a mutual commitment to enhancing connectivity, promote economic integration and