

Consulate liaised with the local Ministry of Labour for repatriation of the workers to India. 55 workers were repatriated on 03-07-2010 and 213 workers have also opted to return and are expected to leave shortly. The local Ministry of Labour is arranging for the return-tickets for the rest of the workers as well as paying the workers about AED 3000/- (approximately Rs.37,000/-) out of the security deposits, made by the employer with whom workers were first employed. Officials from the Consulate have already visited the camps several times and are actively pursuing the matter.

#### **Victims of Air India Kanishka bombing**

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

(a) whether the final inquiry report into the 1985 Air India Kanishka bombing has recommended *ex-gratia* gratuity payment to the families of the 329 victims, who were mostly of Indian origin;

(b) if so, whether the inquiry report has also blamed the Canadian Government for its failure to prevent that country's worst terrorist attack;

(c) if so, whether Government has taken up the matter with the Canadian Government for adequate compensation to the families of the victims of Indian origin; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Canadian Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. Among its key findings, the Canadian Commission of Enquiry into the investigation of the bombing of Air India-182 found, *inter alia*, that:

(i) Canadian Government agencies were in possession of significant pieces of information that taken together would have led a competent analyst to conclude that Flight 182 was at high risk of being bombed by known Sikh terrorists in June 1985;

(ii) Canadian Government agencies failed to appreciate the nature and seriousness of the threat of Sikh extremism;

(iii) Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) surveillance was ineffective;

(iv) Despite the knowledge of the threat of sabotage, Transport Canada and Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Protective Policing displayed a lack of flexibility by continuing to rely on anti-hijacking security measures, which did not address the threat of bombing;

(v) There was a lack of cooperation and communication within the RCMP and between RCMP, Transport Canada and airlines in relation to airport security.

(c) No.

(d) The Head of the Commission of Enquiry, Hon. John C. Major, has recommended that the Government of Canada should establish an oversight mechanism to report on how the recommendations are addressed - those that have been implemented, those that have been rejected and those that require further study. The Canadian Prime Minister has offered an apology for the institutional failing of 25 years ago and the treatment of the victims' families thereafter". The Canadian Prime Minister has stated that Commissioner Major has made many important recommendations and that his Government is in the course of reviewing them. Government of India has noted the efforts of Government of Canada to pursue the matter to its logical conclusion.

#### **Chinese Highway project in POK**

463. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that China has recently signed a deal with Pakistan to build two highways in the disputed Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) region;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether such activities by Chinese Government in PoK is posing serious threat to India; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government on such activities of China and Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (d) Government has seen reports to such effect. Government has raised this issue with the Chinese side and has clearly conveyed India's consistent position that Pakistan has been in illegal occupation of parts of the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir since 1947. China regards Kashmir as a bilateral matter to be settled between India and Pakistan. Government has conveyed its concerns to China about their activities in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir, and asked them to cease such activities. Government keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's national interest and takes all necessary measures to safeguard it.