

An Indian delegation led by the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister and the National Security Advisor, Shri Brajesh Mishra, visited Kathmandu from June 6-7, 2000 for the 5th Meeting of the India-Nepal High Level Task Force (HLTF), to review the ongoing Indian-assisted projects in Nepal and discuss new projects which could be taken up in future. During the visit, Principal Secretary, *inter alia*, had an audience with His Majesty the King of Nepal, called on the Nepalese Prime Minister, Home Minister, Foreign Minister and the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, besides meeting the Chief Secretary and Foreign Secretary of Nepal. Although the visit was in the HLTF context, it did provide an opportunity for discussions on other bilateral issues as well, including those related to our security concerns.

On their part, the Government of Nepal have assured us that their territory would not be used for activities inimical to India's interest and have been extending their cooperation to the Government of India in this regard.

Compensation for Indian Repatriates from Kuwait

2705. SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN:
SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government aware that the compensation claim due to the Indian repatriates from Kuwait consequent to the Iraq-Kuwait War still pending to disposed of;

(b) how many cases still pending in which UNCC has already taken decision;

(c) whether any claim passed by UNCC stands declined by the banks for payment;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the delay of payment; and

[17 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

(e) whether Government will take urgent steps to ensure the claim of all repatriates are settled?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As funds are received from UNCC, payments are being effected through four designated nationalized Banks to claimants, upon completion of documentation formalities by the claimants with the concerned Bank. As this is an ongoing activity, figures are coming down daily. Following is the claims-disbursement position up to May, 2000;

	No. approved	No. disbursed (Part or full)
Cat. A	102154	96536
Cat. B	183	182
Cat. C	38953	31575
Cat. D	266	—

[For D claims, although the first-part money was received in February 2000. However, because of a number of errors, the amount could not be disbursed. The corrections have now been received and payment will begin shortly.]

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Not applicable.

(e) Yes, Sir. We are already seized of the matter, and are ensuring that the award of all those persons whose claims have been approved by UNCC, are paid to them.