

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Installation of Tsunami Warning System

3787. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a time schedule of two and half years has been fixed for installation of the proposed 125 crore Tsunami Warning System to predict the under sea quakes and Tsunami in the Indian Ocean;

(b) if so, whether this time-frame has been reviewed afresh in view of the recent earthquake in Indonesia, when safety measures had to be taken in India to save people from the repeat Tsunami trauma in some coastal towns of the country; and

(c) if so, the revised schedule and the present status of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Abandoning to Wives by NRIs

3788. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that a large number of NRI husbands are abandoning their wives in India particularly in Punjab;

(b) the number of cases reported in this regard in Punjab during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) what effective measures have been taken to provide necessary assistance to helpless girls?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Some cases have been brought to the notice of this Ministry.

(b) Only one case has been brought to the notice of this Ministry this year.

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RAJYA SABHA

(c) All states Government have been advised to take remedial measures including creation Of separate cells to provide free legal counseling for the prospective brides. A booklet for the guidance of prospective brides and their families is being brought out by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs.

Indian diplomatic missions abroad, whenever they receive a complaint of torture or desertion of Indian wives by their NRI husbands, render all possible assistance with a view to bringing about an amicable settlement.

Overseas Indian Citizenship

3789. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

SHRI R.K. ANAND:

SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently announced Overseas Indian Citizenship (OIC) scheme;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes and the names of the specified countries;

(c) the number of applications received so far under the schemes and the action taken thereon;

(d) whether Government have decided to put on hold the said scheme; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF, OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Citizenship Act, 1955 was amended in 2003 to provide for registration of Persons of Indian Origin from 16 specified countries who fulfill specified criteria as Overseas Citizens of India. The names of 16 specified countries are:

(i) Australia

(ii) Canada

(iii) Finland

(iv) France

(v) Greece