

(c) and (d) Yes, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister on 14th June, 2011 requesting, *inter alia*, the suspension of ferry services between Tuticorin and Colombo.

Denial of Visa to people of Arunachal Pradesh

1298. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi has been denying Visas to residents of Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether a 45 member Indian contingent of Karate Team was granted Stapled visas except five members who were from Arunachal Pradesh;

(c) if so, the facts thereof and whether Government has taken up the matter with Beijing; and

(d) if so, the response of the Chinese Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (d) Government is aware that the Chinese Embassy issued stapled visas to five Indian nationals from Arunachal Pradesh visiting China for a Karate Championship. The fact that Arunachal Pradesh is an integral and inalienable part of India has been clearly conveyed to the Chinese side. Government's position that there should be no discrimination against visa applicants of Indian nationality on grounds of domicile and ethnicity has also been clearly conveyed to the Chinese Government on several occasions, including during the visit to India by Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao in December, 2010.

Workers from Rajasthan in Gulf

†1299. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of labourers from Rajasthan go to gulf countries for employment every year;

(b) whether Government has received any complaints with regard to the exploitation of workers in year 2010-11;

(c) if so, the details of the action taken in this regard; and

(d) the details of the measures taken by Government so far to stop the exploitation of the workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) It is estimated that about 6 million Indians from various states including Rajasthan live and work in the Gulf region.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.