

(a) whether the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) met in New York in September, 2011;

(b) whether the conference had passed two resolutions on Palestine and Kashmir; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED):
(a) and (b) Yes.

(c) India is neither a member nor an observer in the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). Government of India has consistently maintained its stand that OIC has *no locus standi* in matters concerning India's internal affairs including Jammu & Kashmir and this has been taken up bilaterally with the member countries of the OIC.

Denial of multiple visa to Indian scientists

1764. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the US does not issue multiple visa to Indian scientists;

(b) if so, the reasons cited by the US Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government had taken up this issue with the US Government to resolve it; and

(d) if so, the response received by Government from the US authorities in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED):
(a) to (d) The Government is aware of long-standing U.S. policy and procedures for issue of visas for foreign scientists working in specified areas of science and technology. The U.S. policy is not India-specific.

The Government has conveyed to the United States Government the importance of facilitating visits by scientists from both sides to realize the shared goal of expanding our bilateral cooperation in the areas of science and technology. The issue was also raised during the first meeting of the Joint Working Group on consular matters held on 25 July 2011 in Washington DC. The United States has

conveyed that it would seek to facilitate travel by Indian scientists within the framework of its regulations.

Labourers going abroad from Rajasthan

†1765. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that thousands of labourers go to Gulf countries for employment every year from the State of Rajasthan;
- (b) whether Government has received any complaints regarding exploitation of labourers in 2011-12;
- (c) if so, the action taken thereon and the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government till date to check the exploitation of labourers and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Cases of complaints from Indian Workers relating to fraudulent offers for overseas employment, contractual violations and cheating on the part of foreign employers/recruiting agents are received from time to time. During 2011, a specific case has been received through the Government of Rajasthan wherein it has been informed that workers including 190 from Rajasthan have not been paid salary by the employer, M/s Al Seh Company Limited, Riyadh (Saudi Arabia). In addition to this, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs also received six complaint cases against unauthorised agents from Rajasthan during 2011-12.

(c) The complaint against M/s Al Seh Company, Riyadh has been referred to the Indian Embassy which is in touch with the Saudi Company to resolve the problems of Indian Workers. All six complaints against unauthorized agents have been forwarded to the State Government of Rajasthan for inquiry and report.

(d) Whenever, a complaint is received, action is initiated by the Ministry for suspension or cancellation of the Registration Certificate of the Recruiting Agent. If required, he is also prosecuted through the State Police. Complaints filed against illegal agents are referred to the State

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.