

(d) whether this was the second time that the Gandhi's statue was vandalised in Sri Lanka; and

(e) whether the statues of other Indian leaders were also vandalised earlier in Sri Lanka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) An incident of vandalism of the statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Batticaloa in Sri Lanka was reported on 6 April 2012. The statues of Robert Baden-Powell, Swami Vipulananda and Pulavarmani Periyathampi Pillai were also reportedly vandalized on the same day at Batticaloa

(b) and (c) As soon as the report came to notice, the matter was taken up with the Government of Sri Lanka as well as the provincial authorities of the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka through diplomatic channels. They were also requested to have the matter investigated and to take steps to repair and restore the statue of Mahatma Gandhi.

The Sri Lanka authorities had informed that the police in Batticaloa were investigating the case and that they had arrested some persons in this context. As per information available, the statues had since been repaired and restored to their original state.

(d) and (e) There have been no reports of vandalism of the statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Sri Lanka prior to the incident of 6 April 2012. On 9 January 2012, it was reported that the statue of Swami Vivekananda was damaged in Arayampathy-Kattankudy area in the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka. The local authorities had since repaired the statue.

Pakistan Handing Over Disputed Land to China

2986. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has passed on to China some disputed territory of India and Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Ministry would take up this matter with the United Nations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (c) Under the so-called Sino-Pakistan Boundary Agreement of 1963, Pakistan ceded 5,180 sq. kms of Indian Territory in Pakistan occupied Kashmir (POK) to China. Government has never recognized the so-called

Sino-Pakistan Boundary Agreement of 1963. Government has conveyed to the Government of China that any such illegal arrangement involving Indian territory between parties that have no legal or constitutional locus standi is invalid and unacceptable. Under the Simla Agreement, the Government is committed to resolving all issues with Pakistan through peaceful negotiations and bilateral dialogue.

Help to Indians in Gulf nations

2987. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has asked Indian embassies in Gulf nations to actively engage local Governments to better the living and working conditions of millions of Indians in the region;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government would also come forward to provide emergency call centre to those millions of Indians working in Gulf countries so as to assist them in case of emergency; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI):

(a) The Government, through Indian Embassies in Gulf countries, conducts Joint Working Group meetings under the bilateral Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) signed with such countries. During these meetings matters related to employment contract, wages and redressal of Labour disputes are taken up. The Embassies also interact with their counterpart agencies on a regular basis. A Counsellor, Community Affairs (Development) has also been appointed in the Embassy of India, Abu Dhabi for this purpose.

(b) and (c) The Government has set up an Indian Workers Resource Centre (IWRC) at Dubai which has a 24x7 helpline, provides grievance redressal and counselling and also manages a shelter home for housemaids seeking shelter and deserted house wives etc. The Ministry has asked Indian Missions to set up similar centres in all Emigration Clearance Required (ECR) countries, including in the Gulf.

Migrant labour abroad

2988. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total legal and illegal migrant labourers working outside the country till today;

(b) whether it is a fact that although the number of migrant labour is
