

Fall in water of river in Arunachal Pradesh

2369. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the State Government of Arunachal Pradesh has reported abnormal fall in the waters of river Siang in Arunachal Pradesh due to suspected change in its courts in Tibet by China;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has taken up the matter with China and ascertained the facts;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) to (e) Government is aware of concerns in Arunachal Pradesh in this regard. Government has clarified that changes in river flows are a natural phenomenon dependent on various hydro-meteorological and climatological factors. There has been neither any abnormal rise nor fall in water flow of River Siang. India has raised trans-border river issues with the Chinese side on many occasions and at the highest level. During his visit to India in March 2012, the Chinese President reiterated their position that China always considers the interest of downstream areas in its development and utilization of trans-border rivers. Government has ascertained that construction activity on Brahmaputra River at Zangmu on the Chinese side is a run-of-the-river hydro-electric project will not adversely impact the downstream areas in India.

Safe release of Indian children from Norway

2370. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH :

SHRI SALIM ANSARI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that Child Welfare Agency of Norway have imposed certain conditions on India for the early safe release of two Indian children;
- (b) if so, the conditions of Norwegian Government imposed for safe return of Indian children; and
- (c) whether Indian Government has agreed to their conditions and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR) : (a) No.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Income Tax Law on Foreign Capital Investment

†2371. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH :

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that foreigners have registered strong protest on the proposal to make amendment in income tax law on foreign capital investment in the budget by Government recently;

(b) if so, whether Government representatives of certain countries of the world have also participated in this protest; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons stated for making this protest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) to (c) Some business entities and associations from countries including the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, France, Mauritius and Japan have raised issues regarding the amendment proposals to the Income Tax Act included in the Finance Bill 2012. The Governments of the UK and Mauritius have also raised concerns. The major issues raised by the foreign entities include the retrospective application of the amendments and concerns about the proposal to introduce General Anti-Avoidance Rules.

Indians Working in Gulf countries

2372. SHRI TARIQ ANSWAR : Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Indians are working in the Gulf countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these persons are cheated, suppressed or exploited by their employees;

(d) if so, the number of cases recorded during the last three years; and

(e) the action taken by Government in this regard?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.