

As per the extant Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Policy of India, FDI upto 100% under the automatic route, is permitted in most sectors/activities, subject to applicable laws and regulations; security and other conditionalities. Further, there is no discrimination between investments from the Russian Federation and those from other countries.

Concerns of various Russian companies operating in India are periodically discussed with the Russian side, using the existing bilateral mechanisms that are in place.

#### **Arrest of Fishermen**

165. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a large number of fishermen are being arrested in sea by the coast guard in our country as well as neighbouring countries;
- (b) if so, the number of Indian fishermen arrested during the last three years; and
- (c) the steps Government is taking for the release of fishermen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) During the period 2009 till July 2012, 1543 Indian fishermen were arrested by concerned coast guard authorities in Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Maldives and Bangladesh for reportedly crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line. Immediately on receipt of information of the arrest of the Indian fishermen, our Missions in all the neighbouring countries took up the issue with the concerned local Departments/agencies for securing expeditious release of the arrested fishermen. As a result of Government of India's efforts, most of the arrested fishermen have been released and repatriated.

#### **Atrocities on Hindus, Sikhs and Sindhis in Pakistan**

166. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of atrocities being committed on Hindus, Sindhis and Sikhs in Pakistan;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether India has done nothing to ameliorate the condition of Hindus, Sindhis and Sikhs in Pakistan and there is no legal protection to minorities in Pakistan; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to protect minority community in Pakistan from atrocities committed by Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (d) Government has seen reports on the problems faced by members of the minority communities in Pakistan. Incidents of persecution and intimidation of the minority communities have also been reported.

It is the responsibility of the Government of Pakistan to discharge its constitutional obligations towards its citizens, including those from the minority community. While, the Simla Agreement of 1972 between India and Pakistan specifically provides for non-interference in each other's internal affairs, nevertheless, based on reports of persecution of minority groups in Pakistan, Government had taken up the matter with the Government of Pakistan. The Government of Pakistan stated that it was fully cognizant of the situation and looked after the Welfare of all its citizens, particularly the minority community.

#### **Compensation to Tamilian from Myanmar**

167. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Tamilians from Myanmar left the agricultural lands, houses and shops in 1942-44 in the custody of British-Burma Government in exile in Simla; and

(b) if so, whether Government is contemplating to appoint dedicated authorised officer to deal with issue and open up the diplomatic channel to get the compensation or possession of the property to the Tamilian population living now in Sivaganga Parliamentary Constituency, Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) Government is not aware of immovable properties claimed to have been left in the custody of the so called "British-Burma Government in exile in Simla" during the period 1942-44.

Government has, however, consistently taken up the grievances of Indian citizens brought to its notice. In this context, the matter pertaining to the thirty eight compensation cases received from Indian citizens whose property had been acquired