

(d) All the twenty-two DAE-Emergency Response Centers are already commissioned and made operational as mentioned in answer to part (a) and (b) of question.

Projects by China/Pakistan in disputed areas

2179. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China and Pakistan are executing projects in Indian territories under their illegal occupation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken up the matter with the concerned Governments or at international forum; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) to (d) Government is aware that China and Pakistan are executing projects in Indian territory under their illegal occupation. Government has conveyed its concerns to China about their activities in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir, and asked them to cease such activities. Government keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's security and takes all necessary measures to safeguard it.

Visa norm between India and Australia

2180. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to work out easier visas norms between India and Australia to boost bilateral trade between the two countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that certain Indian students and others from India have been targeted and beaten up in Australia;

(d) whether Indian Government has taken up such cases with the Australian Government and such other countries, to control this menace; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) and (b) Yes. Visa processes are being streamlined for facilitating easy travel for business and other purposes.

(c) to (e) There were a number of attacks on Indians/Indian students in Australia a couple of years ago. These incidents were taken up strongly with the Australian authorities and as a result of concerted efforts by the Indian government and the Federal and State Governments in Australia, the number of incidents has come down sharply. The measures put in place by local authorities include increased security and reviews of the international education system, student visa regulations and migration system.

Problems in getting visitor visa to USA

2181. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA :

SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons Government is not concerned about fact that our honest, particularly younger people are not getting visitor's visa of USA and their visa applications are rejected without proper reasons, keeping in view that US top leadership has already stated that they want to increase bilateral leadership with India and despite the fact that visa is their sovereign right;

(b) the details thereof;

(c) whether our envoy at Washington received any communication within last one year in this regard;

(d) if so, the action taken by our envoy on this important matter; and

(e) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) to (e) The Government is aware that not all Indian applicants for United States visas are successful in obtaining visas. While Government recognizes that visa policies and procedures are the prerogative of the host country, the Government, in its dialogue with the United States, emphasizes that policies to facilitate movement of people, professionals and business travellers strengthens bilateral relations, including through people to people contacts and mutually beneficial economic ties. To address such issues and to respond to representations being received including by our Embassy in Washington, from Indian citizens and businesses. Government has established an