

Gunning down Indians by French forces

3923. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has expressed its serious concern over gunning down of two Indians in the CAR by French forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted to ascertain exact circumstances that led to the incident taking place;

(d) whether Hon'ble Prime Minister has requested the French Government for ensuring the safety of the Indians; and

(e) if so, the assurances given by the French Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (e) On the morning of 25 March, 2013, one Indian national and one Nepalese passport holder were killed and six Indian nationals injured in a confusing situation where the French forces protecting the Bangui M'Poko airport in the Central African Republic intervened apparently against vehicles trying to penetrate it.

As soon as the incident was brought to its notice, Government of India raised its serious concern with the French authorities seeking an investigation into the incident and sought their assistance in bringing the mortal remains of the deceased Indian national back to India as well as in arranging immediate medical treatment for the injured.

Immediately after the incident, French President Francois Hollande wrote and spoke telephonically to Prime Minister expressing his sincere condolences to the grieving families and an enquiry was instituted by the French Defence Minister to ascertain the exact circumstances of the tragic incident. The French Foreign Minister and the Defence Minister also telephoned their Indian counterparts immediately after the incident to express their condolences. The French authorities assured that the enquiry will be conducted in complete transparency with the Indian authorities.

During various interactions with the French authorities, Government sought French security assistance for the safety of the remaining Indian nationals entrapped in the

tragedy including those in a cement factory located outside Bangui to which the French side responded positively.

The six injured Indian nationals have, since, been repatriated to India by French authorities. The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs has informed our Embassy in Paris that compensation will be provided to both the wounded and the family of deceased.

The outcome of the enquiry was conveyed by the French Government on 29 April, 2013. The enquiry concludes, *inter-alia*, that “A responsible and transparent handling of the incident, which had caused the death of two civilians (Indian and Nepalese) and injured several Indian nationals, has directly contributed towards pacifying the Indian community in Bangui and underscored the accidental nature of this incident”.

Slum free city plans under RAY

3924. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has started a Pilot phase for undertaking the finalization of slum free city plans under Rajiv Awas Yojana in the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the details of cities in which Pilot phase has been undertaken under the said project;

(d) the details of funds sanctioned, released and actual expenditure under the Pilot phase in various such cities; and

(e) the time by which the Pilot phase under the RAY will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY) was launched on 02.06.2011. Under Rajiv Awas Yojana, Central Assistance is extended to States that are willing to assign property rights to slum dwellers and undertake reservation of land for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)/Low Income Groups (LIG), earmark 25 per cent of municipal budget for basic services to the urban poor/slum-dwellers and bring in legislative amendments and policy changes to redress land and affordable housing shortages for the urban poor.