

Indians in jails of Nigeria

65. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 12-13 Indians are in Nigeria Jail; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps Government is taking to get them released; the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) Ten Indian nationals were arrested by the Nigerian Navy on November 25, 2012 while on board vessel MT Akshay. They are currently facing trial on charges of theft of crude oil and economic sabotage in a court of law.

(b) Government has been in regular touch with the concerned Nigerian authorities seeking a speedy trial of the case.

Interest subsidy scheme for housing and urban poor

66. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is implementing the interest subsidy scheme for housing the urban poor in the country; if so, the details of the scheme;

(b) the details of urban poor who have benefited from the above scheme in the last three years; year-wise and State-wise; and

(c) the progress and performance of the above project in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (DR. GIRIJA VYAS): (a) Yes, Sir. The Interest Subsidy Scheme for Housing the Urban Poor (ISHUP) was launched in Eleventh Five Year Plan period with an aim to provide interest subsidy at the rate of 5% (500 basis points) on housing loans upto Rs. 1 lakh to the urban poor for the purposes of construction/acquisition of houses. The scheme has now been revamped as 'Rajiv Rinn Yojana' whereas interest subvention will become eligible for loans upto Rs. 5 lacs.

(b) and (c) Year-wise and State-wise details of progress made under ISHUP during the last three years, including the State of Andhra Pradesh, are given in Statement.