

(a) whether it is a fact that the Mobile Tower fixed by the Multinational Companies are consuming 30 per cent subsidized diesel and responsible for pollution in rural green area; and

(b) whether the Department has framed any rules and criteria for setting of tower for Mobile connection, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) As per Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) recommendation on 'Approach towards Green Telecommunications' dated 12th April 2011, the average fuel consumption of diesel is 8760 liters per tower every year, assuming 8 hours of operation of a diesel genset installed as a source of backup power with every mobile tower. There are approximately 5.85 lakhs mobile towers in the country. However, as informed by Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Government of India the actual data for consumption of diesel for diesel gensets installed with mobile towers is not available,

(b) The DoT has not framed any rules and criteria for setting of tower for mobile connection. However, DoT has reportedly issued advisory guidelines to State Governments for issuance of clearance for installation of mobile towers in respective States.

#### **Higher foreign allowance to diplomats**

2369. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering higher foreign allowance to diplomats, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the presently diplomats were not able to pay domestic assistants wages in accordance with the laws prevailing in the countries of their postings;

(c) whether Government is considering to find a way of making payments to diplomats domestic assistants in compliance with the minimum wage stipulations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) There is no proposal by the Ministry for higher

foreign allowance for India-based officials in Indian Missions and Posts abroad. The Ministry has been in correspondence with the Ministry of Finance to address some technical issues raised by the latter related to annual review of indexation of foreign allowance.

(b) to (d) In view of certain recent developments, the Ministry is considering, in consultation with other relevant departments and Ministries of Government, various options regarding the terms of service of India based domestic assistants of diplomats posted abroad, keeping in view local requirements in different countries as well as international conventions and diplomatic practice.

#### **Indian apprehended by Chinese troops**

2370. DR. K. P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chinese troops apprehended five Indian nationals in the Chumar area of Ladakh, well inside the Indian territory and took them to their side of the border in the month of December, 2013;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this was perhaps the first incident of this kind along the Line of Actual Control; and

(c) whether Government had taken up this issue with the Chinese Government, if so, their reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI E. AHAMED):

(a) to (c) There has been no instance of PLA troops apprehending any Indian national well inside Indian territory. Three Indian civilians, who had strayed across the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the general area of Chumar, were apprehended by the People's Liberation Army (PLA). The PLA intimated our troops about their apprehension on 10 December, 2013. A flag meeting was held on 11 December, 2013 at Spangur, during which the three Indian civilians were returned.

#### **Fishermen arrested by Sri Lanka**

2371. SHRI T. M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sri Lankan Navy arrested 25 fishermen, seized their six trawlers and damaged a boat in the early hours on 21st January, 2014;