

As on January 1, 2014, there are 232 fishermen believed to be Indian in Pakistani jails. Pakistani authorities have provided consular access to 98 of them, whom Indian nationality of 93 has been confirmed.

Government of India, on a continuing basis, monitors the status of Indian fishermen in Pakistani jails. The Government regularly takes up with Pakistan the issue of early consular access of fishermen believed to be Indian and their early release and repatriation. An India-Pakistan Judicial Committee consisting of retired judges from both countries also visits the jails in both countries to ensure humane treatment and expeditious release of prisoners, including fishermen, who have completed their prison term.

Due to Government's efforts, 390 fishermen were released by Pakistan in 2013.

#### **Indians struck up in Saudi Arabia**

2845. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Indians have been stuck up in Saudi Arabia;

(b) whether as per version of the Indian Mission in Saudi Arabia, these people had illegally entered in the above region;

(c) whether these people are maltreated and have been denied their emoluments; and

(d) whether Government has initiated some action plan to rescue the above beleaguers people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) During the seven-month grace period given by the Saudi government from April-November 2013 to overstaying expatriate workers to either correct their legal status or leave the country without facing any penal action, over 1.4 million Indian workers availed the concessions. During this period, over 1,41,000 Indian workers left Saudi Arabia on final exit, including those who returned availing the concessions and others who left the country on completion of their normal contractual period.

Some Indian workers did not avail the concessions to correct their legal status. Of these, 82 persons have currently been accommodated in the shelter arranged by our mission in Riyadh. From time to time, expatriate workers, in violation of local labour laws, are detained in Saudi Deportation Centres before their final deportation to India.

(b) The Government of India has no information on any Indian who entered into Saudi Arabia illegally. However, the status of some expatriate workers becomes illegal as and when they violate local labour laws during the course of their stay.

(c) and (d) The Government of India continues to raise these and related issues with the concerned authorities in Saudi Arabia for facilitating and expediting early deportation of all Indian workers who did not or could not correct their legal status during the grace period.

#### **Slum free India**

2846. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE :

SHRI N.K. SINGH :

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a working group of National Advisory Council (NAC) has stressed that slum dwellers should be resettled at the spot where they are currently living;

(b) if so, the present progress of rehabilitation of slum dwellers across the county; and

(c) whether the aim of Government to make Urban India free from slums would be achieved within any specified period, if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (DR. GIRIJA VYAS) : (a) Yes Sir. Under Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY), preferred mode of implementation is *in-situ* development. Slum is to be relocated only with the consent of slum dwellers.