(c) whether Government proposes to issue biometric identity cards to all street vendors in NCT of Delhi, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether it would conduct such a survey to regularize and rehabilitate such vendors?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) to (d) Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation has not made any survey of street vendors in the NCT of Delhi. The Government of India has enacted a Central Act namely The Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014 which has come into force on 1st May, 2014. As per Section 3(1) of the Act, the Town Vending Committee shall conduct a survey of all existing street vendors within the area under its jurisdiction. The period and manner of the survey and form and manner of issuing identity cards to street vendors will be specified in the scheme framed by the State/UT Governments as per Section 38(1) of the Act.

Indians taken hostage in Sudan

†*430. DR. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that dozens of youth from Bihar have been taken hostage in Sudan, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government to bring back those youth?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) It is not a fact that dozens of youth from Bihar have been taken hostage in Sudan. No Indian is currently held hostage in Sudan. There was a labour unrest recently reported from Sudan pertaining to workers from Bihar which involved issue of non-payment of wages by their contracting firm. The Ministry, alongwith our Embassy in Khartoum, took immediate action and matter of delayed payment of wages was sorted out. Thereafter, more than 70 workers from Bihar who wished to go back home have returned to India, as per their contractual norms.

Reservation to SC/ST Government related institutions

†*431. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to ensure reservation to scheduled castes/ scheduled tribes in those Government and private companies which have any participation of Government; if so, the details thereof; if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) the number of requests received from public representatives and other social organisations in this regard by Government; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) to (c) The policy of Government of India provides for reservation in Public Sector Undertakings. This policy has been further extended in September 1974 to include voluntary organizations receiving grants-in-aid of ₹ 2 lakhs and above from the Consolidated Fund of India and recipient body employing more than 20 persons on a regular basis where at least 50% of its recurring expenditure is met from grants-in-aid from the Central Government.

Representations were received suggesting for statutory policy for reservation/ affirmative action in private sector. At present, there is no proposal to extend the benefit of reservation for SC/ST/OBCs in private companies which have any participation of Government. However, a high level Coordination Committee was constituted in October, 2006 to carry forward the dialogue with the Industry on Affirmative Action in the Private Sector. In the context of reservation in private sector, the Industry representatives are of the view that reservation is not a solution but are willing to partner with the Government and appropriate agencies in enhancing and expanding current recruitment policy for the marginalized sections, especially the SC and ST at all levels, as also to encourage skill development and training. Accordingly, the industry associations *viz*. Confederation of Indian Industries, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry have informed that they have prepared a Voluntary Code of Conduct (VCC) for member companies wherein stress has been laid on equal opportunities in employment for all sections of society, removing bias in employment to disadvantaged sections of society, increasing employability of socially disadvantaged sections through skill upgradation, continuous training and providing scholarships, etc.

Implementation of the Tribal Rights Act

*432. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government monitors the implementation of the Tribal Rights Act through State Governments and other agencies; and

(b) if so, the details of achievements made as per the provisions of the Act along with the barrier created by developmental aspects?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per information received from the State/U'T Governments, as on 30.06.2014, a total of 37,69,240 claims have reportedly been filed in various States/U'Ts. Of these, a total of 14,78,759 titles (14,56,493 individual and 22,226 community titles) have been distributed and 35,538 titles were ready for distribution. Any information regarding any barrier created by development aspects has not come to the notice of this Ministry.