

if the concerned Mission/Post is not contributing to social security. Free return passage to India is granted to those locally recruited employees who have put in 25 years of service.

(c) Any inhuman handling of such employees has not been brought to the notice of this Ministry including with regard to Consulate General of India located in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

(d) Local employees in Indian Missions/Posts abroad are not governed by stipulations for workers engaged by foreign private companies or persons. Services of local staff are subject to terms and conditions contained in the employment contract prescribed by the Ministry of External Affairs, local laws as and where applicable and Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, 1963 and Vienna Convention on Consular Relations 1963.

Setting up of international maritime boundary

3877. DR. K. P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Sri Lanka are considering to set up an International Maritime Boundary Line between India and Sri Lanka, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has received widespread protest against this move from the State of Tamil Nadu, if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH]: (a) and (b) Under the 1974 Agreement on the boundary in historic waters between India and Sri Lanka and the 1976 Agreement on the maritime boundary between the two countries in the Gulf of Mannar and the Bay of Bengal the International Maritime Boundary Line between the two countries has been demarcated. However, writ petitions have been filed on the issue of Katchatheevu Island in various courts.

Strengthening of ties with Nepal

3878. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Nepal have agreed to review the ties between the countries, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether in this direction both the countries have agreed to update the treaty of Peace and Friendship 1950 to implement bilateral investment promotion and protection on agreement (BIPPS); the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH]: (a) Yes. Both sides held the third meeting of the India-Nepal Joint Commission at the level of Foreign Ministers on 26 July 2014 in Kathmandu to review the ties between the two countries.

(b) Yes. The Joint Commission reiterated the need for reviewing, adjusting and updating the Treaty of Peace and Friendship 1950, reflecting the current realities. It directed the Foreign Secretaries to make necessary recommendations. Both sides also stressed the need to complete necessary formalities to enable entry into force of the Bilateral Investment Protection and Promotion Agreement (BIPPA).

Building of Dharmashala in Nepal

†3879. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the declaration of building a Dharmashala in the premises of Pashupatinath Mandir in Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal was made by Government of India in 2002, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the task of getting a Dharmashala built has not been performed by Government of India so far; and

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor and whether the present Government proposes to get this task performed soon, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH]: (a) to (c) A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for construction of the Nepal-Bharat Maitri Pashupati Dharmashala in Kathmandu was signed between the Government of India (GoI) and Pashupati Area Development Trust (PADT) on March 10, 2004.

After signing of the MOU, the process for appointing a Consultant for preparing the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of the Dharmashala was initiated and the Consultant was appointed in November 2004. The DPR prepared by the Consultant was examined and shared with PADT in February 2005. The tender for selection of Consultant for construction of the Dharmshala was issued in November 2006 and the Consultant was appointed in July 2007. The design of the Dharmashala building prepared by the Consultant was submitted to the Kathmandu Metropolitan City Office in November 2007 for permission,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.