

(b) if so, the remedial measures, compensation package from hosting country and employer is contemplated to help the debt ridden deceased family of young widows and children, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) and (b) Government of India has not taken up study of suspicious deaths of Indian labourers in Malaysia and Arab countries.

However, individual cases are dealt with in accordance with the regulatory laws applicable in the host countries. Wherever family members of the deceased point out that the death is due to suspicious circumstances, Indian Missions/Posts abroad take up such cases promptly with the concerned local authorities to get the matter fully investigated and also for payment of dues/compensation etc., if due as per the regulatory laws of the concerned countries.

Discussion over H1-B and L-1 Visas with President Obama

360. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI ANAND SHARMA:

SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the issues of H1-B and L-1 Visas were discussed during the recent visit of President Obama; and

(b) whether any assurances have been received for the increase in the number of H1-B and L-1 Visas and recommendation of the enhanced Visa fees for Indian professionals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) and (b) During discussions on a range of bilateral issues with the US President during his visit to India in January 2015, Prime Minister raised with the US President, the importance of ensuring easier access for Indian professionals into the United States, including the issue of H1-B visas. The US President noted India's concerns in this regard.

Vision statement on Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean region

361. SHRI M. P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a vision statement was made on the Asia-Pacific

and Indian Ocean region during the US President's visit to the country recently; and

(b) if so, the details of the statement made and its impact on our relations with our neighbouring countries particularly China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) and (b) The President of the United States H.E. Barack Obama accompanied by First Lady Michelle Obama, visited India from 25-27 January 2015 as the Chief Guest at India's 66th Republic Day celebrations. The India-US Joint Strategic Vision for the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean Region was one of the 3 documents jointly issued during the visit.

As the leaders of the world's two largest democracies that bridge the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean region, India and the US agreed to work towards closer partnership to promote peace, prosperity and stability in the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean region through a Joint Strategic Vision for the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean Region. As India and the US are important drivers of regional and global growth, they agreed to support sustainable, inclusive development, and increased regional connectivity by collaborating with other interested partners to address poverty and support broad-based prosperity. It was also agreed to promote accelerated infrastructure connectivity and economic development to support regional economic integration and security, strengthen regional dialogues, regional forums and pursue areas where both countries can build capacity in the region that strengthen long-term peace and prosperity for all. As part of these efforts, the United States also welcomed India's interest in joining the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum.

Chinese reaction on Indian infrastructure on borders

362. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the infrastructure project at Indian side of the border with China has been opposed by the Chinese authorities, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether this subject was taken up for discussion with the Chinese authorities during the recent visit of the Minister;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Chinese authorities in this regard; and