

Duping of Indian workers by gulf employers

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

(a) whether UAE Government was concerned at the increasing incidence of employers giving Indian workers the short shrift and agents duping them, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Gulf work contract could be signed in five Indian languages now to end the menace, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) No.

(b) At present, the work contract in United Arab Emirates (UAE) is being signed in nine more foreign languages, other than Arabic and English, which *inter-alia*, includes Hindi, Malayalam, Tamil and Bengali.

Transport project between Mizoram and Myanmar

498. SHRI RONALD SAPA TLAU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons to implement Kaladan Multi-modal Transit Transport Project between Mizoram and Sittwe, Myanmar;

(b) what are the chances of completing the project with revised estimate of ₹ 2904 crore;

(c) how much of the 90 kms. highway in South Mizoram and 140 kms in Myanmar have been completed;

(d) what is the expected date of completion of the project; and

(e) whether Government is hopeful of completing the project on time, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) The Kaladan Multi Modal Transit and Transport Project aims to provide connectivity between India and Myanmar from Ports on India's Eastern sea board to Myanmar's Sittwe Port and further to North East India through Myanmar using sea, river and road transport modes to facilitate movement of goods. The project includes a Waterway component of 158 km on Kaladan River from Sittwe to Paletwa in Myanmar and a Road component of 109 km from Paletwa to Zorinpui on India-Myanmar border in Mizoram.

(b) Ministry is hopeful of completing the project within the revised project cost of ₹ 2904 crore approved by competent authority in October 2015.

(c) On Indian side, the 99.83 km road from NH-54 at Lawangtalai to Zorinpui in Mizoram, has achieved a physical progress of 66% and the work is likely to be completed by June 2018. As regards construction of 109 km Kaladan road in Myanmar, tender for selection of contractor has been issued in February and the submission of bids is May 2016.

(d) While the original Waterways component of Kaladan Project is approaching completion by June 2016, the additional items under Waterways and Road component are scheduled to be completed by April 2019.

(e) All efforts are being made to complete the project within the approved timeframe.

**Pakistan's High Commissioner meeting
separatist leaders of Kashmir**

499. SHRI PAUL MANOJ PANDIAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite India's objection, Pakistan High Commissioner in New Delhi met separatist leaders on Pakistan Day, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Pakistan has been taking plea that it looks at the separatists leaders as genuine representatives of Kashmir; and

(c) whether Government has lodged its complaint with Pakistan for continuously hosting separatists leaders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) to (c) Government is aware of reports regarding presence of 'leaders' of the Hurriyat and other Kashmiri separatist 'leaders' at the Pakistan High Commission on Pakistan's National Day.

Since the entire State of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of the Union of India and these so called Kashmiri 'leaders' are Indian citizens, there is no bar on their meetings with representatives of any country in India. However, India has consistently maintained that there is no role for a third party in the bilateral dialogue between India and Pakistan as per the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration. India's displeasure at Pakistan's attempts to interfere in India's internal affairs has been repeatedly conveyed to Pakistan.