

**Indian kidnapped in Nigeria**

503. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reports that a Telugu speaking horticulture expert working in Auhja district of Nigeria was kidnapped and ransom demands were made to the family;

(b) if so, what steps were taken to rescue him from the kidnappers; and

(c) whether Government would put in place a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to enable the Indian missions to come to the aid of the Indian victims since the threat of such kidnappings for ransom has been on the rise in the Nigerian region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) The Indian Mission in Nigeria is aware that an Indian national, Shri Venkata Pawan Kumar Ayesetty, belonging to Andhra Pradesh, was kidnapped on 18.02.2016 from Agbede farms in Auchi, Edo State, Nigeria. He was released on 26.02.2016 following negotiations with the company management.

(b) and (c) The Indian Mission constantly remained in touch with the employer of the kidnapped Indian national and the concerned Nigerian authorities for coordination to ensure his safe release. The Ministry of External Affairs and our Mission in Nigeria immediately come to the aid of any Indian national in a distress situation and urgent steps are taken to address the issue.

**Growing relationship between China and Pakistan**

504. SHRI K. C. TYAGI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the mutually growing relationship between China and Pakistan over the past few years is increasing the concerns of India, if so, the Government's reaction thereto;

(b) whether India has informed Pakistan and China about its concerns; and

(c) if so, the reaction of these Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) to (c) Government is aware of China's assistance to Pakistan for various hydroelectric and nuclear projects, highways, motorways, ports, export processing zones and economic corridors in Pakistan. China