

**China becoming top aid donor to Nepal**

2798. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the Ministry's reaction to China pipping India and becoming the top aid donors to Kathmandu;

(b) what are the reasons for India's Official Development Assistance to Nepal plummeting by over 50 per cent in 2014-15; and

(c) what diplomatic, political and economic measures the Ministry is proposing to be a major player in Nepal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. J. AKBAR): (a) Media Reports based only on that portion of the foreign aid which is channelized through the budget of Nepal, do not show the complete picture. The Government of India provides significant grant assistance for several projects and schemes, including scholarships and training, which are not reflected in the budget of the Government of Nepal. India remains a leading donor to Nepal.

(b) India continues to be fully committed to Nepal's socio-economic development. The disbursement of actual aid to Nepal depends on utilization of the available amount and progress achieved in numerous projects under implementation with GoI assistance in Nepal. The development assistance extended to Nepal in 2014-15 was INR 420 crores, and that in 2015-16 was INR 300 crores. Four lines of credit totaling INR 11,203.5 crores have been extended to Nepal so far. More assistance can be examined once these amounts are utilized.

(c) Government of India is committed to further strengthen and expand India-Nepal Cooperation through regular bilateral exchanges and developmental assistance. We are extending all assistance in accordance with the aspirations of the people of Nepal, for peace, stability and socio-economic development of the country.

**Help to Indians stuck in Syria**

2799. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many Indians are still stuck in Syria and other war affected countries;

(b) how many Indians have been rescued from these countries during the last two years; and

(c) what measures have been taken to bring the Indians who are still stuck in Syria and other war affected countries, the details thereof?