

(b) Yes, considering the urgency of the situation, Minister of State for External Affairs Gen (Retd.) V. K. Singh led the team of Ministry of External Affairs officials who went to Juba on-board Indian Air Force aircraft to bring back the Indian nationals on 14-15 July, 2016.

Indian's entry into SCO

2821. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a long drawn process lies ahead for India to complete its entry into the Shanghai Corporation Organisation (SCO);

(b) whether it is also a fact that India has sought fairly flexible multilateralism in its extended neighbourhood; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that India has signed a base document which is called the Memorandum of Obligations, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. J. AKBAR): (a) As per membership process put in place by SCO, countries aspiring to become members of SCO need to conclude with SCO a Memorandum of Obligations (MoO). India signed such MoO with SCO on 24 June, 2016. The MoO *inter alia* details obligations of India towards acceding to 35 (thirty-five) SCO documents/agreements as per timeline also indicated in MoO, spanning from November, 2016 till April, 2017.

(b) India pursues a relationship of friendliness and cooperation with all countries in the world, including its immediate and extended neighbourhood. These relations are developed on a bilateral basis as well as through existing regional mechanisms in our extended neighbourhood such as ASEAN, ARF, EAS, GCC and SCO.

(c) India signed the Memorandum of Obligations with the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation on June 24, 2016, at Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

States selected under "Housing for All" scheme

†2822. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States have been selected under "Housing in All" scheme, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of houses to be constructed, State-wise and the marks in which the States and the cities or towns therein have been selected;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.