

Sl. No.	Financial Year	Funds allocated	GIA received	Expenditure incurred
3.	2013-14	260.70	177.27	167.73
4.	2014-15	302.83	126.89	139.90
5.	2015-16	462.70	155.36	147.59

UK voting to leave European Union

408. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that United Kingdom has voted to leave the European Union (EU); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and its impact on Indo-UK relations and our trade prospects between the European Union countries and UK?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) and (b) In the referendum held on 23 June, 2016, the people of the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union (51.9% vs. 48.1%). For the United Kingdom to leave the European Union, it has to invoke Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty. It is up to the Government of United Kingdom to decide when to invoke this Article. Such an invocation will then set in motion, the process for the United Kingdom to withdraw from the European Union. The relationship between the United Kingdom and the European Union is, therefore, yet to evolve and until such time, it is hard to assess the impact of the exit of the United Kingdom from the European Union on India-United Kingdom relations. India values its strong and multi-faceted relationship with the United Kingdom and the European Union and is committed to further strengthening these ties.

MoU to join US global entry programme

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

(a) whether India has entered into an MoU with USA to join the US Global Entry Programme, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) what would be the benefit for the Indian citizens by joining this programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) and (b) A Memorandum of Understanding between Consular, Passport and Visa Division, Ministry of External Affairs of India, and US Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security

of the United States, for the development of an International Expedited Traveller Initiative (Global Entry Programme) was signed in Washington D.C. on 3 June 2016. Operationalization of the MOU will facilitate expedited entry of pre-approved Indian travellers upon arrival in the United States.

Problems of Indian workers in Doha

410. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently Prime Minister assured Indian workers in Doha that he would take up the issues being faced by them with the authorities;

(b) if so, what were the issues being faced by Indian workers in Doha;

(c) whether Prime Minister took up those issues in the talks held with Emir of Qatar; and

(d) if so, what was the result of the talks and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. J. AKBAR): (a) and (b) During his official visit to Qatar, Hon'ble Prime Minister addressed and interacted with the Indian workers on 4 June 2016 and enquired about their well-being and welfare. He assured them that the Government of India would regularly take up their issues, if any, with the Qatari Authorities concerned as appropriate.

Generally, the problems faced by Indian workers in Qatar, as in other countries of the Gulf region, relate to contractual and sponsorship violations. There are occasional complaints, particularly from those working as household workers. Some complaints relate to non-payment, short payment or delayed payment of salaries, long working hours, illegal retention of passport by the local sponsor and contractual violations regarding food, accommodation and medical facilities to the workers etc.

(c) and (d) During the visit, matters pertaining to the Indian community in Qatar were discussed by the leadership. At India's request, the Government of Qatar released 23 Indian prisoners under the Emiri Pardon on 6 June 2016.

Presence of Sri Lankan Navy personnel in Katchatheevu Island

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

(a) whether Sri Lanka has enhanced the presence of its Navy personnel in Katchatheevu island preventing the fishermen from Tamil Nadu fishing in and around the said area;