

(c) The Eminent Persons Group mechanism is autonomous of our official bilateral exchanges. Its Report would be available at the end of its proposed two-year tenure.

(d) We continue to encourage all moderate political forces towards a lasting and inclusive Constitutional settlement of the remaining issues within a defined timeframe. India continues to maintain close engagement and bilateral exchanges, as well as extend all assistance in accordance with the aspirations of the people of Nepal, for peace, stability and socio-economic development of the country.

MoU for PKVY

1199. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Skill Development Ministry to implement Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PKVY), if so, details of the scheme;

(b) what trades would be covered under the scheme for providing training to workers seeking jobs outside India;

(c) how much fund has been allocated for this scheme; and

(d) whether such skill training would also be supplemented with placement assistance to enable workers to seek suitable jobs outside India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. J. AKBAR): (a) to (d) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed on July 2, 2016 between the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship for implementation of the Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PKVY).

The Scheme aims at enhancing the skills set of potential emigrant workers in select sectors and job roles, in line with international standards, to facilitate overseas employment. Initially, the scheme would focus on sectors that are in demand in ECR countries including domestic workers, drivers and construction workers.

The Ministry of External Affairs has allocated ₹ 10.00 crore for this scheme for the current financial year.