

of projects for rehabilitation of Tamil population in Sri Lanka. Besides assisting the affected people during the conflict, Government launched extensive humanitarian relief efforts after the end of the conflict in May 2009, for the war affected and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the Northern and Eastern Provinces.

India's total development portfolio in Sri Lanka is nearly US\$ 2.6 billion, out of which the grant component is US\$ 436 million. Government of India's flagship Housing Project, with an overall commitment of over INR 1372 crore in grants to construct 50,000 housing units, is a major initiative taken aimed at rehabilitation of the affected population. It includes 46,000 housing units for IDPs in the Northern and Eastern provinces and 4,000 housing units in Central and Uva Provinces of Sri Lanka. The 46,000 houses in the Northern and Eastern provinces are nearly complete and have been handed over to the beneficiaries, barring a few which are in the final construction phase.

In addition to the construction of houses, the grant projects undertaken by the Government of India are in the areas of upgradation of educational institutions including reconstruction of schools; supply of medical equipment and construction of hospitals; reviving local economies and creation of livelihood; improving transportation, power and water supply; improving sports infrastructure and creation of infrastructure for cultural space, among others.

Government of India has extended a Line of Credit for Railway and other connectivity projects for rehabilitation in the Northern and Eastern Provinces. Track laying on the Pallai-Kanakesanthurai railway line; Omanthai-Pallai sector; Madhu Church-Talaimannar Sector and Medawachchiya-Madhy railway line as well as setting up of signaling and telecommunications systems for the Northern Railway line are among the completed projects under the Line of Credit. A project to rehabilitate the Kanakesanthurai Harbour under a Line of Credit is currently being undertaken jointly by the Governments of India and Sri Lanka.

Government assesses the needs and undertakes the projects in consultation with the Government of Sri Lanka. All the projects are closely monitored by the Government to ensure that the assistance reaches the vulnerable and identified people. In all the grant projects, the payments are made either directly to the beneficiaries or to the contractors in order to ensure that the funds allocated for rehabilitation are used for the purpose intended.

#### **Bringing back NRIs from foreign countries**

3857. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Non Resident Indians (NRIs) who are interested to settle in India;

(b) whether Government has any proposal to revive the policy to bring back Indian population settled in foreign countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) As per data obtained by Ministry in December 2016, there are an estimated 1.16 crore non-resident Indians (NRIs) settled globally. Since NRIs are citizens of India, many of them maintain their domicile in India and return to settle down in India after completion of education, employment or stay with their relatives abroad. The Ministry does not have data about number of NRIs who are interested in settling in India.

(b) and (c) The Government does not have any specific policy to bring back Indian population settled in foreign countries.

However, the Ministry and Indian Missions/Consulates abroad are engaging with the overseas Indian community regularly through various schemes, initiatives, and dialogue mechanisms and inviting them to contribute to the ongoing development and growth process in India.

Indian nationals who are in distress abroad are provided consular assistance by Indian Missions and Consulates, to enable their repatriation to India.

To enable Persons of Indian-origin (PIOs) to reconnect with India, PIOs who hold Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) Card have been provided, inter alia, following facilities under Section 7B(1) of the Citizenship Act, 1955:

- Multiple entry life-long visa
- Exemption from registration in FRRO irrespective of duration of stay
- Parity with NRIs in economic, financial and educational fields in India except acquisition of agricultural or plantation property
- Parity with NRIs
  - For practice as medical professionals, advocates, architects and CAs
  - Appear in All India Pre-Medical Test and other entrance tests for technical courses in India
- Permission to file an affidavit to declare their address in India.

PIOs who are OCI Cardholders for 5 years and ordinarily resident in India for 12 months before making an application for registration, are eligible for grant of Indian citizenship.

Under Section 5 of the Citizenship Act, 1955, PIOs and their spouse; and persons of full age whose parents are registered Indian citizens, who are resident of India for last seven years, are eligible to apply for citizenship of India subject to fulfillment of conditions mentioned therein.

#### **Land to habitat India and IIC**

3858. SHRI D RAJA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of land given to Habitat India and India International Centre (IIC) in New Delhi by Government and conditions of such grant, lease, etc. respectively;

(b) whether Habitat India and IIC are not following inclusive policies with regard to membership;

(c) whether it is a fact that both managements are under life-time trusteeship; and

(d) if so, the details of steps proposed to open up both IIC and Habitat India managements in a transparent manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) The areas of land allotted to both India International Centre (IIC) and India Habitat Centre (IHC) are 4.69 acres and 9.604 acres respectively. The terms and condition of both these Centres are stated in their respective lease deeds which are uploaded on the website of Land and Development Office/Ministry of Urban Development;

(b) to (d) Management of both of these institutions and the issues related to membership are dealt by their respective Management Committees.

#### **Fisherman shot dead by Sri Lankan Navy**

3859. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian fishermen were shot dead by Sri Lankan navy on 7th March, 2017 near Katchatheevu;

(b) if so, the detail thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken up this issue with Government of Sri Lanka; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to prevent such incidents?