

Chinese warning over Balochistan

818. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that China has warned India over Balochistan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the said warning came because China is making huge investments in Balochistan; and
- (d) what actions have been taken by Government to counter the Chinese warning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) to (d) India has expressed concerns, including at multilateral fora, about human rights violations in Baluchistan. However, no structured dialogue with China has taken place on this issue.

Retrenched Indian workers in Saudi Arabia

819. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Saudi Arabia had promised to fly back the retrenched Indian workers who want to come back;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Government of Saudi Arabia has promised to try and find jobs for retrenched Indian workers; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) and (b) Following reports of difficulties faced by a section of Indian workers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia primarily in two major Saudi companies namely Saudi Oger and the Saad Group, the Government had taken up the matter with the Government of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Saudi authorities agreed to extend all possible assistance to the affected Indian workers of these companies including waiver of fines on *Iqama* (resident permit) related violations, providing exit visas and one way return tickets to India. Presently, the process of repatriation is nearing completion and 4830 Indian workers have returned so far.

(c) and (d) The Saudi authorities are also facilitating transfer of sponsorship, wherever possible, of the affected workers from their present company to other