

Increase in business with China

2738. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite growing tensions between India and China, there is an increase in doing business with China in as much as several Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) worth over 10,000 crore have been signed/executed by Public Sector Units (PSUs) in various States, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Chinese vendors have captured 49 percent of the Indian mobile handset market and Chinese smartphone maker Xiaomi, despite reports of data security breaches by IAF, alone would generate \$2 billion revenue from its operations in India this year, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. J. AKBAR): (a) and (b) India and China have built up a substantial economic relationship in recent years that includes trade, project exports and investments. Bilateral trade was US\$ 71.48 billion in 2016-17. Due to market access challenges in China, India, however, ran a deficit of US\$ 51 billion. This is a matter of serious concern and has been taken up with the Chinese Government at high levels. Insofar as investment is concerned, China ranks 17th in terms of FDI equity inflows and the cumulative FDI stock from April 2000 to March 2017 is US\$ 1.64 billion.

Memorandums of Understanding, agreements and contracts have been signed by public sector undertakings as well as private business with Chinese companies in various sectors, based on extant policies governing such transactions.

According to Government statistics, India imported goods under HS Code 8517 (dealing with telephone sets cellular and wireless network) worth US\$ 3.67 billion from China in the last year. Individual revenue statistics are obtainable from companies concerned.

Government maintains a close and continuous watch on all developments that have security implications and takes appropriate measures from time to time.

Abduction and conversion of Hindu Girls

†2739. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Hindu girls are being abducted and converted in Pakistan;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, whether the Ministry has taken any steps in this regards; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. J. AKBAR): (a) to (c) Government, from time-to-time, has come across reports of problems being faced by members of minority community, including forced conversion of Hindu Girls in Pakistan. Recently, in June 2017, a Hindu girl was reportedly abducted and forcefully converted and married to a Muslim man in Sindh.

It is primarily the responsibility of the Government of Pakistan to discharge its obligations towards its citizens, including members of the minority community and ensure their safety, security and well being. Government, from time to time, takes up the matter at a bilateral level with the Government of Pakistan.

Low cost houses for poor and slum dwellers

2740. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the poor and slum dwellers in the urban areas/cities of the country are provided/being provided low-cost houses under various schemes of Government, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the intended beneficiaries/allottees do not occupy their houses and keep them vacant;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for keeping their houses unoccupied; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by Government to stipulate any timeline for occupying the houses by the allottees or otherwise to identify the persons/people waiting for allotment of such houses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) 'Land' and 'Colonization' are State subjects and it is the responsibility of the State/UT Governments to provide housing to all its citizens including slum dwellers. The central Government through its schemes facilitates the efforts of the States/UTs in addressing the housing shortage. The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) launched on 25.06.2015, aims to provide assistance to States/UTs in addressing the housing requirement of the slum dwellers and other urban poor. 'In-situ' Slum Redevelopment (ISSR) is a component under PMAY (Urban)