

Minister of State for External Affairs, General (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd.) visited Baghdad and Erbil from 11-15 July, 2017 and Secretary (Economic Relations) in the Ministry of External Affairs visited Erbil in June, 2017 for this purpose.

The Government has been in regular touch with the countries in the region seeking their assistance and has also activated various channels for locating them.

#### **Taking up the matter of intrusion with Chinese Government**

1293. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Chinese army has intruded more than 120 times in Indian territory during May-June, 2017;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the details of Chinese intrusion during 2016 and 2017, so far, month-wise and response of Government thereto;
- (c) whether Government has taken up the matter with Chinese authorities;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of the response of Chinese Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH]: (a) to (e) There is no commonly delineated Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the border areas between India and China. From time to time, on account of differences in the perception of the LAC, situations have arisen on the ground that could have been avoided if we had a common perception of the LAC. Government regularly takes up any transgression along the LAC with the Chinese side through established mechanisms including border personnel meetings, flag meetings, meetings of Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India- China Border Affairs and diplomatic channels. The two sides agree that peace and tranquility on the border is the basis for the continued expansion of India-China relations.

#### **H-1B visa guidelines by USA**

1294. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that United States of America (USA) has issued two fresh H-1B guidelines which impact entry level computer programmers from India;

(b) whether it is also a fact that clarifications have been issued by the US Citizenship and Immigration services on the above guidelines; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH]: (a) to (c) On 31 March, 2017, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services [USCIS] issued a policy memorandum that superseded and rescinded the 22 December, 2000 memorandum titled “Guidance memo on H-1B computer related positions”. The new memorandum describes that a petitioner seeking to sponsor a beneficiary for a computer programmer position, may no longer rely solely on 22 December, 2000 memorandum, and must provide other evidence to establish the position as a specialty occupation. The above H-1B guideline is in the nature of clarification to USCIS personnel performing their duties relative to the adjudication of applications and petitions.

In a press release issued subsequently, NASSCOM stated that “The 31 March USCIS memorandum reinforces existing practice by adjudicators and clarifies requirements for certain computer professionals. The clarifying guidance should have little impact on NASSCOM members as this has been the adjudicatory practice for years.”

#### **Chinese aggression along LAC**

1295. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the Chinese aggression along the Line of Actual Control (LAC);

(b) if so, the details thereof and what is the action plan of Government; and

(c) how many times Chinese soldiers have intruded into Indian territory during the last three years, including the current year, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH]: (a) to (c) There is no commonly delineated Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the border areas between India and China. From time to time, on account of differences in the perception of the LAC, situations have arisen