

**Border outposts along India-Bangladesh Border**

\*56. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Cabinet Committee on Security reduced the estimated number of Border Outposts to be constructed along the India-Bangladesh border from 509 to 422;

(b) if so, the rationale behind this decision;

(c) whether Government is considering to go with original estimate of 509, if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of other measures taken by Government to reduce the inter-BOP distance to 3.5 kms. along the India- Bangladesh border; and

(e) whether Government is aware of increasing security breaches into the State of West Bengal due to lack of sufficient BOPs along India-Bangladesh border?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJU): (a) to (c) As per sanction total of 383 Border Out Posts (BOPs) were to be constructed along Indo-Bangladesh border. This was changed to 326 BOPs as the construction of remaining BOPs was not feasible either due to difficulties in land acquisition or due to site conditions. Remaining BOPs will be taken up as and when the site is made available or construction becomes feasible at an alternative site.

(d) and (e) The average inter-BOP distance for Indo-Bangladesh border is already approximately 3.5 km. There has been no report of security breach into the State of West Bengal due to lack of sufficient BOPs along Indo-Bangladesh Border.

**Land under PSUs in Kerala**

\*57. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of land under the possession of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) of the Ministry in Kerala;

(b) the total market value of the land under possession of PSUs in Kerala;

(c) the details of area of land of PSUs sold out so far; and

(d) the amount collected by selling the land of PSUs during the years 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SURESH PRABHU):

(a) and (b) No land in Kerala is under possession of any Public Sector Undertakings of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. However, one of the PSUs viz. State Trading Corporation of India Limited has three flats with total area of 2806 sq. ft. in the city of Cochin with an estimated market value of ₹77,80,277/- as on May, 2014.

(c) and (d) Not applicable.

#### **National minimum wage**

\*58. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to fix the national minimum wage;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the methodology adopted for the said revision;

(c) whether the methodology of determining the minimum wage is as per any study; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the logic for fixing the national minimum wage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) The Code on Wages Bill, 2017 has been introduced in Lok Sabha on 10.08.2017 and subsequently, referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour. Section 9 of the Code on Wages Bill, 2017 introduces the concept of national minimum wage to be fixed by the Central Government. It also provides that Central Government may fix different national minimum wage for different States or different geographical areas.

The Central Government before fixing the national minimum wage, may obtain the advice of Central Advisory Board. As per Section 42 of the Code on Wages Bill, 2017, the Central Advisory Board shall consist of representatives of employers and employees besides independent persons.

#### **Talks to solve problems of Jammu and Kashmir**

\*59. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has authorised any representative to talk to all stakeholders with a view to solve long standing problems and turmoil in Jammu and Kashmir; and