

institutional framework to comprehensively discuss and review labour related issues.

(d) In accordance with the Labour and Manpower Cooperation/Agreement, Joint Working Group (JWG) meetings are held on regular basis to discuss various labour related issues including the issue of taking away of passport. Most of the GCC countries already have laws, which prohibit employers from taking away the passport from their employees.

#### **Stoppage of pilgrims for Kailash Mansarovar**

1135. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has stopped Indian pilgrims for Kailash Mansarovar from entering its territory through Nathu-la in Sikkim;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and

(c) the outcome of the discussion in the matter taken up by Government with China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) and (b) The Kailash Manasarovar Yatra *via* the Nathu La route was not undertaken in 2017 after the Chinese Government cited unfavourable conditions to ensure the safe and smooth conduct of the Yatra on this route.

(c) The Government of India is engaged with the Chinese Government on this matter. EAM also raised the issue with Chinese Foreign Minister during his visit to India in early December, 2017.

#### **Meeting with Foreign Ministers**

1136. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of recent meetings with the Foreign Ministers of Tunisia, Bahrain, Latvia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Denmark;

(b) whether India tried to reinvigorate economic relationship in various sectors like pharma, textiles, biotechnology, renewable energy, IT etc. with these countries; and