

and manpower cooperation related Memorandum of Undertakings (MoUs)/Agreements with countries that are destination for a large number of Indian migrant workers. These include all the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries namely, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

(c) to (e) While entering into these MOUs/Agreements, the government has accorded the highest priority to the safety and well-being of Indian workers. Broad principles underlying these MoUs/Agreements include:—

- Declaration of mutual intent to enhance employment opportunities and for bilateral cooperation in protection and welfare of workers;
- The host country to take measures for the protection and welfare of workers;
- Statement of the broad procedure that the foreign employer shall follow to recruit Indian workers;
- The recruitment and terms of employment to be in conformity with the laws of respective countries; and
- Setting up of Joint Working Groups to provide institutional mechanism to discuss labour and manpower related matters.

Security architecture in Indo-Pacific region

1785. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any progress has been made to develop tie-up with US, Japan and Australia for building some kind of security architecture in the Indo-Pacific region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any action plan has been drawn to fine tune the cooperation between the partners and Indo-Pacific Region countries to ensure security in the region; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH): (a) to (d) Prime Minister enunciated India's vision for the Indo-Pacific region during his keynote address at the Shangri-La Dialogue in

Singapore on 1st June 2018. The vision stands for a free, open, inclusive region, which embraces all in a common pursuit of progress and prosperity. It includes all nations in this geography as also other nations beyond the region who have a stake in it. The vision entails evolving a common rules-based order for promoting common prosperity and security through dialogue.

India is engaged with all key partners in the region and beyond to ensure peace, stability and security in the Indo-Pacific Region.

Passport Seva Kendras in Maharashtra

1786. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) presently functioning in Maharashtra with location-wise details thereof;
- (b) whether Government proposes to set up more PSKs in the State; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH): (a) and (b) There are eight Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) presently functioning in Maharashtra at Andheri, Lower Parel and Malad in Mumbai and at Pune, Nagpur, Nashik, Solapur and Thane. Also, the Ministry in association with the Department of Posts has announced opening of 289 Passport Seva Kendras at the Head Post Offices (HPO)/ Post Offices (PO) in the country called 'Post Office Passport Seva Kendra' (POPSK), including 25 in Maharashtra. Out of these, 13 POPSK at Ahmednagar, Aurangabad, Beed, Ghatkopar/Vikhroli, Jalgaon, Jalna, Kolhapur, Nanded, Pandharpur, Pimpri Chinchwad, Sangli, Satara and Wardha are functional.

- (c) The Ministry intends to complete the requisite formalities for the remaining 12 locations at Akola, Amravati, Baramati, Chandrapur, Dombivali, Latur, Madha, Mumbai North Central, Mumbai South Central, Navi Mumbai, Panvel and Sindhudurg for setting up of these POPSK at the earliest.

Border between India and Myanmar

1787. SHRI K. BHABANANDA SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of conventions and agreements under which the border between India and Myanmar is pursued to be settled;