

the number of PSLV launches and also develop dedicated small launcher to cater to this high market demand.

(b) As on date, 237 foreign satellites belonging to international customers from 29 countries have been successfully launched using PSLV.

Starting from 1993 till date, PSLV has completed 43 launches, of which 2 launches failed. Overall success rate of PSLV has been 95%.

(c) Yes Sir.

Selling of infrastructure projects to power companies

*245. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to sell successfully running public sector infrastructure projects such as power and steel plants to power companies;

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

(c) whether Government has made any detailed consultations regarding this proposal with all CPSEs and if so, the response of those CPSEs thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (RAOINDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) In light of (a) and (b) the question does not arise.

Privatisation of Hindustan Newsprint Limited, Kerala

*246. SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to privatise the Hindustan Newsprint Limited (HNL), Velloor, Kottayam, Kerala;

(b) whether Government has received a request from the State Government of Kerala expressing their willingness to take over the HNL; and

(c) if so, whether Government has taken any decisions in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ANANT GEETE): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has given 'in principle' approval for strategic disinvestment of 100% shareholding of Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited (HPC), a wholly owned Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) of Government of India Company, in Hindustan Newsprint Limited (HNL) to a strategic buyer to be identified through a two stage auction process.

(b) Government has received requests dated 13.6.2018 and 26.06.2018 from the State Government of Kerala expressing their willingness to take over the assets of HNL through mutual consultation.

(c) No decision has been taken.

Ban on migration to gulf countries

*247. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is imposing restrictions on migration to Gulf countries in view of the problems being faced by Indians in those countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken/being taken by Government to bring already migrated Indians back; and

(d) the details and the number of people benefited by such steps?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ):

(a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Indian nationals are advised not to travel to Yemen in the Gulf region in view of the security situation.

The government has also taken additional measures to safeguard the interests of Indian female workers migrating to Emigration Check Required (ECR) countries in view of complaints of exploitation and harassment of the housemaids by unscrupulous agents and employers in the Gulf countries. As per extant guidelines, the minimum age of ECR category female workers proceeding for overseas employment to ECR countries is 30 years. Their emigration for overseas employment is permitted only through the seven designated state run recruitment agencies or through the Foreign Employer registered on e-Migrate system. In case of Foreign Employer, attestation of work contract by the Indian Mission in the destination country and submission of a bank guarantee of US \$ 2500 is mandatory before the emigration clearance is granted by the Office of Protector of Emigrants.

(c) and (d) There is a robust institutional framework in place towards ensuring the safety and well-being of Indian nationals going abroad. The MADAD portal, e-Migrate system, Indian Community Welfare Fund, Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendras, Open Houses, help-lines, shelter homes etc. are some of the important mechanisms to expeditiously assist Indian nationals abroad. The government also works in close coordination with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries where