

Yatra organised by private tour operators through Nepal as a result of cancellation of flight operations in this route due to inclement weather.

(c) The Indian Mission in Kathmandu has taken a number of steps to safeguard the pilgrims on the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra (KMY), in close coordination with this Ministry. The Mission has been coordinating with its local representatives stationed in Nepalganj and Simikot and with all the tour operators to ensure safety of all the stranded pilgrims in Simikot/Hilsa and Nepalganj. The Mission issued a detailed travel advisory for KMY pilgrims and widely circulated the contact numbers of the persons concerned as well as 24x7 hotline numbers, in four Indian regional languages, to attend to all queries regarding safety of pilgrims. The Mission coordinated with local authorities to provide medical care and security to the pilgrims. A team of Mission officials were stationed at Nepalganj / Surkhet and Hilsa / Simikot to facilitate the evacuation process, in close coordination with the Government of Nepal and the private sector to avail of the services of the Nepal Army helicopters and private helicopters / airlines for safe evacuation of the pilgrims.

#### **Diplomatic efforts to end border dispute with China**

174. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that both India and China have put their diplomacy at work to end border stand-off with each other;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the embassies in both the capitals of these nations would continue to be used for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) to (d) Last year, the disengagement of Indian and Chinese border personnel in the Doklam area was accomplished on the basis of persistent diplomatic communications between the two sides.

All established institutional mechanisms including Special Representatives Talks, meetings of Working Mechanism for Consultation & Coordination on India-China Border Affairs, border personnel meetings, flag meetings, as well as diplomatic channels continue to be utilized to address matters related to India-China border affairs.

Government consistently maintains that peace and tranquility in the India-China border areas is an important pre-requisite for the smooth development of bilateral relations.

### Green card applicants for USA

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

(a) whether green card applicants of India are more in number and making their trial to get the cards for them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of USA is putting restrictions on the issue of green cards to the foreign nationals and thereby Indian aspirants are facing much difficulty in getting those cards;

(d) whether Government has made any requests for relaxation of norms for green cards on behalf of the Indian emigrants; and

(e) whether the Government of USA has responded to our request and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) to (e) According to U.S. Government Statistics, the total number of Green Cards awarded to Indian nationals in last 5 years under five categories (Employment-based; Family based; Diversity lottery; Refugees and Asylees; and Other) are as follows:

Year	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016
Green cards given to Indian nationals	66,434	68,458	77,908	64,116	64,687

As per the information released by the US Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS), as of May 2018, there are a total of 306,601 pending Green Card applications filed by Indian nationals under the Employment-Based Preference Category. Information on Green Card applicants for other categories, including dependent family members of the primary beneficiaries of Employment-Based Preference Category, is not available in public domain.