

personnel along with their families from Sri Lanka to Bodh Gaya in India; (iv) visit of a delegation of the Mahabodhi Society of India to Sri Lanka; (v) celebration of India and Sri Lanka @70, a joint celebration of 70 years of Independence of the two countries; and (vi) joint celebration of the First Settlers Day, Seychelles-India Day and Kreole Day in Seychelles; etc.

- (c) Not applicable.

Payment of salary to Indian workers in Bahrain

189. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that hundreds of Indian workers in Bahrain were not paid their salaries for several months by the companies where they were employed;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has taken any action to help those workers getting their salaries; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) and (b) It has been informed by the Indian Embassy in Bahrain that 350 Indian expatriate workers from the following three companies had not been paid salaries for four to six months:-

- (i) M/s GP Zachariades Overseas Ltd.
- (ii) M/s Orlando Construction Company WLL
- (iii) M/s First Uniforms Company WLL

(c) and (d) The matter was taken-up by the Indian Embassy with concerned authorities. Part dues have been paid and defaulting companies have agreed to settle the balance amount.

H-1B visas to Indian professionals

190. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the U.S. Congress had not passed any Bills that