

Kerala floods, several countries expressed their sympathies and their willingness to assist in the relief and rehabilitation efforts. In response, Government expressed deep appreciation for such offers and conveyed that, in line with existing policy, it is committed to meeting requirements for relief and rehabilitation through domestic efforts. It was further conveyed that contributions to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund and the Chief Minister's Relief Fund from NRIs, PIOs and international entities such as foundations would, however, be welcome.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

Logistic sharing agreement with Japan

346. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is expected to sign the Logistics Sharing Agreement with Japan later this year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and how it would benefit India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Opening of Kartarpur Corridor

347. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA:

DR. ANIL AGRAWAL:

SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Pakistan has provided an official response to India's proposal for opening of Kartarpur Corridor to Kartarpur Sahib;

(b) if so, the details thereof and what is the timeline for implementation of the project; and

(c) if not whether Government proposes to make request to Pakistan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) to (c) The Union Cabinet, on 22 November,

2018, passed a Resolution to celebrate the 550th Birth Anniversary of Shri Guru Nanak Devji in 2019 and *inter alia* approved building and development of Kartarpur Corridor from Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur District to the International Border on the Indian side to facilitate pilgrims from India to visit Gurudwara Kartarpur Sahib in Pakistan. On the same day, the Government of India informed the Government of Pakistan of its decision to build Kartarpur Corridor from Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur District of India to the International Border and urged Pakistan to recognise the sentiments of the Sikh community and to develop a corridor with suitable facilities in their territory from the International Border to Gurudwara Kartarpur Sahib.

The Government of Pakistan in response has agreed to build a corridor in its territory from Gurudwara Kartarpur Sahib to the International Border.

Hon'ble Vice President of India laid the foundation stone for the construction of the corridor on the Indian side on 26 November, 2018. Union Minister of Food Processing Industries and Minister of State (IC) for Housing and Urban Affairs attended the ground breaking ceremony for development of Kartarpur Corridor on the Pakistan side on 28 November, 2018 as representatives of the Government of India.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is the nodal Ministry for building and development of the corridor on the Indian side.

The Government has urged Pakistan to expedite the construction of the corridor on their side to ensure that Indian citizens can pay their respects at the Gurudwara Kartarpur Sahib using the corridor as soon as possible.

Indians seeking asylum in USA

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

(a) whether it is a fact that over 7,000 Indians have sought asylum in USA during 2017;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has sought details from the concerned persons about the reasons for seeking the asylum; 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) The U.S. Government does not publish any statistics on number of asylum-seekers by nationality, nor does it share information