

duty-free access to 98.2% of India's total tariff lines. 38 African countries enjoy the benefits of our DFTP Scheme.

- (v) India has become the fifth largest investor in Africa with cumulative investments at USD 54 billion. Sizeable investments have been made in Oil and Gas, mining, banking, pharma, textiles and other sectors in African countries.
- (vi) Our trade with Africa has increased to \$ 62.16 billion (2017-18), an increase of nearly 22% from the previous year.
- (vii) Several training programs under ITEC, ICCR and IAFS programmes, are also being undertaken for capacity building of Africans. Public Private Partnership training programs in the healthcare sector have been initiated by us.
- (viii) International Solar Alliance, another major initiative of Government of India, has been overwhelmingly joined by African countries thereby providing tremendous scope in cooperation on solar energy.
- (ix) In order to facilitate increased people-to-people contact e-tourist visa facility has been extended to 33 African countries.

We are looking at enhanced engagement with the Africa Continent. We want to build upon our partnerships and create jobs and opportunities for all our peoples.

#### **Emergency plan for evacuation of migrant workers**

452. DR. BANDA PRAKASH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to frame an emergency plan with standard operating procedures and an institutional mechanism to evacuate migrant workers, especially the millions in West Asia;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) by when the guidelines would be framed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD) V. K. SINGH]: (a) Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs (2018-19) of the 16th Lok Sabha in its 23rd Report presented on January 2, 2019 on "Issues relating to migrant workers including appropriate legislative framework and skill development initiatives for prospective migrants" has recommended that "the Government should chalk out an emergency plan that clearly delineates Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and also forge an institutionalized mechanism with host

countries to evacuate workers”. The report further recommended that “the migrant workers should also be provided with the manner in which emergency situations can be dealt with during their pre-departure training phase.”

(b) and (c) Indian Missions and Posts abroad have in place detailed crisis management plans for dealing with emergency situations, taking into account the specific local conditions of respective countries and keeping in view the interests, safety and security of all Indian nationals in the countries concerned. Migrant workers proceeding overseas for employment are now being given pre-departure orientation training under which relevant information for dealing with emergency situations in foreign countries including emergency contact numbers of Indian Missions, 24x7 helpline numbers of Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendra (PBSK), etc. are provided. In addition, The Handbook of Migrant Workers, which is distributed to migrant workers attending PDOT programme at PDOT Centres in New Delhi, Mumbai, Kochi and Lucknow also contains contact details of Indian Missions/Posts in GCC countries, Protector of Emigrants (POE) Offices in India, Helpline numbers of PBSK and url of Madad Portal.

#### **Effect of Brexit on Indians in UK**

453. DR. SANTANU SEN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any analysis has been done by Government on how Brexit would affect India and Indians settled in UK; and

(b) if so, what are the findings thereof and if not, the reasons for not doing an analysis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD) V. K. SINGH]: (a) and (b) Brexit is still an ongoing process. Government of India is closely following the process and any assessment of the impact of Brexit on our relation with the UK can only be made after the process is concluded. India enjoys Strategic Partnership with the UK and is committed to strengthening its bilateral relations irrespective of the outcome of Brexit.

#### **Adjustment of scheduled tribes in Indian Embassies**

†454. SHRI SAMIR ORAON: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state.

(a) whether the Ministry has any plan to adjust people belonging to Scheduled Tribes in the Indian Embassies located abroad to take benefit from the qualifications,

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.