

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,

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

international contacts and experience of those who have acquired higher technical qualifications through research programs and studies sponsored abroad by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether any such recruitment/adjustment would be considered in the near future and if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (GENERAL (RETD) V. K. SINGH): (a) All officials of the Ministry, including those belonging to ST category, are considered for posting in Indian Missions/Posts abroad on the basis of their relevant experience and overall suitability for the assignment.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Fishermen from Andhra Pradesh in jails in Pakistan

455. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a large number of fishermen from Andhra Pradesh are detained in Pakistan jails for inadvertently entering into Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has held any talks at diplomatic level to rescue/release those fishermen; 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) According to the available information, 503 Indian fishermen are believed to be in Pakistan's custody. According to the list shared on 1 January 2019, Pakistan has acknowledged the custody of 483 fishermen who are Indian or believed-to-be-Indian in their jails. These include fishermen from Andhra Pradesh.

The Government attaches high importance to the issue of safety, security and well-being of the Indian fishermen. The Government, through diplomatic channels has taken up the matter with the Government of Pakistan seeking immediate consular access to the apprehended fishermen and their immediate release and repatriation.

Government's persistent efforts have succeeded in securing the release of 1749 Indian prisoners, including 1725 fishermen along with 57 boats from Pakistan's custody since 2014. The Government continues to pursue the matter of early release