

Colombo Process

1162. SHRI SANJAY SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the report of data collected from the Colombo Process; and
- (b) the plans of how this data can be used to benefit India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN) : (a) and (b) Colombo Process is a Regional Consultative Process comprising 12 Member States from Asia (countries of origin of migrant workers), which broadly serves as a forum for exchange of best practices on the management of overseas employment and contractual labour. The process is voluntary and non-binding in nature. The Process is governed by Ministerial Consultations wherein recommendations and action plans are discussed and adopted by the Ministers of the participating Member States. So far, six Ministerial Consultations have been held in Colombo (2003), Manila (2004), Bali (2005), Dhaka (2011), Colombo (2016) and Kathmandu (2018). There are five Thematic Area Working Groups (TAWGs) i.e. (i) Skills and Qualification Recognition; (ii) Fostering Ethical Recruitment; (iii) Pre-Departure Orientation and Empowerment; (iv) Remittances and (v) Labour Market Analysis.

Ministry has been actively participating in the Ministerial Consultations, Senior Officials Meetings and meetings, symposium, workshops being organized under the aegis of different TAWGs. Initiatives taken by the Government for welfare and protection of Indian emigrant workers abroad have been regularly shared as best practices in this forum. Ministry has also contributed to various studies, undertaken within the aegis of different TAWGs, on status of implementation of social protection provisions for migrant workers in Colombo Process Member States; mapping of existing rating mechanisms of recruitment agencies in Colombo Process Member States; remittance regulatory frameworks and accessibility of regular remittance channels of the Colombo Process Member States etc.

MOU between India and Kuwait

1163. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Kuwait for co-operation on the recruitment of domestic workers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the move is likely to benefit around three lakh Indian workers deployed in Kuwait, including about 90,000 female domestic workers; and