

assistance to overseas Indian nationals in times of distress. The guidelines of the Indian community welfare fund have been revised to expand the scope of welfare measures and to cover three key areas, namely, assisting overseas Indian nationals in distress situations, community welfare activities and improvement in consular services. The distressed female Indian workers approaching Missions/Posts are provided temporary shelter till their cases are resolved.

- (viii) Labour and Manpower Cooperation MoUs/Agreements are in place with the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries that provide the institutional framework to comprehensively discuss and review labour related issues and Joint Working Group (JWG) meetings are held on regular basis.

Agreement signed between India and the US

*207. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of agreements in various sectors signed between India and the US during the recent visit of US President to India;
- (b) the equipments that the US has agreed to sell to India for the Indian armed forces, in the defence deals, with details;
- (c) whether any agreement for providing R&D, maintenance and servicing of these equipments in India was signed, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the mechanism through which the state-of-the-art technology would be maintained and serviced in India?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. JAISHANKAR): (a) The documents concluded during the State Visit of the President of the United States of America, Donald J. Trump, to India in February 2020, are as below:

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding on Mental Health between the Department of Health and Family Welfare of the Government of the Republic of India and the Department of Health and Human Services of the Government of the United States of America.

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding on the Safety of Medical Products between the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization within the Directorate General of Health Services of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of the Republic of India and the Food and Drug Administration of the Department of Health and Human Services of the United States of America.
- (iii) Letter of Cooperation between Indian Oil Corporation Limited and ExxonMobil India LNG Limited and Chart Industries Inc.

(b) to (d) Over the years, India has acquired a number of U.S.-origin defence platforms including aircraft such as the C-17, C-130J, P8I and helicopters like Chinook and Apache. Recently, Ministry of Defence concluded contracts to acquire six Apache (AH-64E) helicopters and 24 MH-60R multi-role helicopters from the U.S. along with associated equipment, spares, weapons and ammunition. Maintenance and servicing is provided for in the contract.

Demand to raise telecom tariffs

*208. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private telecom service providers have demanded help to raise telecom tariffs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government has clarified to the service providers that the tariff will continue to be market driven and that the companies need to work out how to deal with competition; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that most of the private telecom service providers are running on loss and whether the tariff needs to be hiked for their survival?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) A few major private Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) have represented to the Government regarding the financial stress in the telecom sector. They have also represented to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). The tariff regulation is under the purview of TRAI. Presently, the fixing of tariffs is under forbearance and the