

(b) whether it is also a fact that India has urged all concerned that data sovereignty of all countries must be respected;

(c) whether the data protection law must be technology agnostic, based on element of free consent, requisite data protection authorities and a fair mechanism for data processing; and

(d) if so, the response that Government has got on its point of view on data?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DHOTRE SANJAY SHAMRAO): (a) to (d) The Government on 31st July, 2017, *vide* OM No.3(6)/2017-CLES, constituted a Committee of Experts on Data Protection under the Chairmanship of Justice B.N. Srikrishna, Former Judge, Supreme Court of India to study various issues relating to data protection. The committee had submitted its report and a draft bill which are available at <https://meity.gov.in/data-protection-framework>. The said draft Bill was placed in the public domain and comments were sought. The feedback received and largely positive and after certain modifications, based on such feedback, the PDP Bill has been introduced in parliament during the winter session 2019 and the bill has been referred to a joint committee of the parliament.

The committee in the above said report at Chapter (2) has brought out all aspects relating to transferability of data across national borders and the need for legislation to govern jurisdiction over personal data.

The essential principles behind the draft law are that it is technology agnostic, promotes holistic application, stresses informed consent, proposes data minimization, lays down accountability and structured enforcement and provides for deterrent penalties. The details regarding these essential principles are explained in the report. The bill also proposes establishment of a Data Protection Authority of India for enforcement of the law in regard to personal data.

#### **India-Myanmar road project**

2919. SHRI KUMAR KETKAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of India-Myanmar border road; and

(b) by when it is going to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) and (b) There is no border road project along the India-Myanmar border. Government of India is separately undertaking construction of Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Transport Project, which has a road component of 109 km., from Zorinpui in India to Paletwa in Myanmar. This Project, when completed, will improve connectivity with Myanmar, by creating a multi modal transport corridor for shipment of cargo from the eastern ports of India to Myanmar as well as to the North-Eastern region of India *via* Myanmar.

#### **Indians killed in Sudan**

2920. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many Indians were killed in a tanker blast in Sudan very recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what were the steps taken by Government to help the families of these victims;

(d) whether Government has taken up the matter with the Sudanese Government for compensation to the families of the victims; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, 20 Indians were among a total of 25 workers killed in an LPG tanker blast at the Seela Ceramics Factory in Khartoum on 3 December, 2019. The bodies of 17 Indian workers were identifiable while 3 were charred beyond recognition.

(c) Embassy of India, Khartoum acted immediately after receiving news about the tragic accident and held meetings with the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Health and Trade and Industries. Our Ambassador also met H.E. Dr. Abdallah Hamdok, Prime Minister of Sudan to request assistance with expeditious identification and repatriation of the mortal remains of the Indian nationals to their families in India. The Embassy