

Chabahar port operations

2931. DR. AMAR PATNAIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of port development projects being carried out internationally in partnership with India;

(b) whether the understanding demonstrated by the US with respect to the operation of the Chabahar port extends only to continued humanitarian supplies to Afghanistan; and

(c) whether the port's operations are currently restricted to supplying humanitarian supplies to Afghanistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) to (c) India is partnering in port development projects in Bangladesh, Iran, Myanmar and Sri Lanka.

In Bangladesh, India will be partnering in a project for upgradation of Mongla Port under Government of India (GoI) Line of Credit of US\$ 4.5 billion extended to Bangladesh. The estimated cost of the project is US\$ 530 million. The project consists building of two container terminals and related infrastructure facilities at the port.

In Myanmar, a port at Sittwe and IWT Terminals in Sittwe and Paletwa as part of Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Transport Project have been constructed with Government of India's grant assistance in May 2017 at a cost of about US\$ 78 million. A Port Operator has taken over the port operations from 01 February, 2020.

In Sri Lanka, India is partnering a project for upgradation of Kankesanthurai (KKS) Harbour located in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka under a Line of Credit Agreement for US\$ 45.27 million signed with Sri Lanka in January, 2018.

In Iran, India is participating in the development of the first phase of Shahid Behesti Port in Chabahar in cooperation with the Government of Islamic Republic of Iran. The Indian company, India Ports Global Limited, has taken over port operations at the Shahid Behesti Port at Chabahar in December 2018 and has successfully handled over 5 lakhs tons of cargo including Afghan cargo since then. The U.S has shown understanding of the importance of the Chabahar Port operations for continued

humanitarian supplies to Afghanistan and to provide Afghanistan with economic alternatives.

Mid-term report to UN Human Rights Council

2932. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India will be submitting a mid-term report to the United Nations Human Rights Council on the status of implementation of recommendations received during its third Universal Periodic Review (UPR);

(b) whether efforts are being taken by Government to include Civil Society in the process of implementation and monitoring of UPR recommendations and the preparation of its next report for India's fourth UPR;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) No. India has been following the cyclical process for submission of Universal Periodic Review reports and did so in 2008, 2012 and 2017.

(b) to (d) Universal Periodic Review is an inter-governmental process. The draft national report is prepared in consultation with relevant Ministries and Departments. Thereafter, it is put online for public comments and feedback before finalisation. Civil society representatives are also consulted in this process.

Repatriation of persons from Kuwait

2933. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that large number of persons who have gone to Kuwait are struggling to come back to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether State Government of Andhra Pradesh has sought any interference of the Ministry to bring them back to Andhra Pradesh, if so, the details thereof; and