

Tamil interpreters in Gulf countries

2637. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of problems faced by labourers going to Gulf countries from Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to appoint Tamil interpreters in Gulf Embassies considering heavy concentration of labourers for the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Government is fully aware of problems faced by labourers going to Gulf countries from Tamil Nadu.

(b) There are no specific proposals to appoint Tamil interpreters in our Embassies in Gulf countries.

(c) and (d) The Ministry is sensitive to the needs of the Indian community living in foreign countries. Wherever possible, the Ministry tries to post officials particularly those who are likely to work in Consular Section, who are proficient in a specific Indian language. Moreover, the Indian Embassies have facilities for interpretation when the officials are interacting with the members of the Indian community in cases where this may be necessitated.

Schools for children of diplomats

2638. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the countries in which Indian schools are being run for children of our diplomats abroad;

(b) the children of how many diplomats are studying in schools/ universities abroad and in which counties; and

(c) the details of financial assistance/allowances being given to diplomats for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) In Nepal, Russia and China, Indian schools are being run for children of our diplomats abroad.

(b) Information in this respect is being compiled by seeking inputs from all Indian Missions/Posts abroad.

(c) Under the Indian Foreign Service (Pay, Leave, Compensatory Allowances) Rules, the Ministry is responsible for schooling of children, in the age group of 5 to 20 years, of officials serving in Indian Missions/Posts abroad. The education allowance given to India-based officials is restricted to admissible items as defined in the rules, and according to the charges levied by the schools, which are in the panel of the Mission/Post.

U.S. efforts to stop cross border terrorism in India

2639. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that USA President took up the issue of cross border terrorism with Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf during June, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government are satisfied with the outcome of the USA efforts and optimistic of positive response from Pakistan".

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes. The United States has repeatedly stated that it continues to press President Musharraf to end infiltration and take action on terrorist camps. At the joint press briefing after his Camp David summit with President Musharraf on 24 June, 2003, President Bush stated, "we discussed the need to address extremism and cross-border infiltration". A senior U.S. official also stated at a press briefing on 24 June 2003, "we expect and what we think Musharraf needs to commit to and we think he has committed to is a hundred per cent effort at trying to stop cross-border incidents".

(c) Government has noted Statements by the United States in this regard. Cross-border infiltration and terrorist attacks in Jammu and Kashmir continue.