

[1 March, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

Working Group (JWG) have been held so far, in July, 1997 at Kathmandu; in June, 1998 at New Delhi and the latest from 1st to 3rd February, 2000 at Kathmandu. Concrete measures and coordination on security issues were discussed, reviewed and followed up at these meetings.

(b) During the third meeting of the Joint Working Group in Kathmandu, the two sides reiterated their determination not to permit the use of their respective territories for activities directed against the other. They reviewed the developments since the last meeting of the JWG and had a useful exchange of views on modalities for more effective management and regulation of the Indo-Nepal border. They agreed to strengthen cooperation to control undesirable activities and the movement of terrorist, criminals and other undesirable elements across the border. It was reiterated that the privilege of unimpeded access through the open border enjoyed by the nationals of the two countries should not be allowed to be misused by anyone, including third country nationals. An action plan has also been prepared in consultation with concerned States to strengthen policing and intelligence collection machinery including patrolling of vulnerable stretches. The report of the Committee, set up by the Nepalese Government to investigate security arrangements at Kathmandu's Tribhuvan Airport, has not been made public.

Misuse of Samjhauta Express and Delhi-Lahore Bus Service

668. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the number of reports about the misuse of Samjhauta Express and Delhi-Lahore Express bus service;

(b) whether the Police administration too have been complaining about the anti Indian use of Samjhauta Express and Delhi-Lahore bus service;

(c) whether Government received these complaints from the Police administration too; and

(d) whether Government are considering to stop these two services between India and Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.