

Indo-Nepal talks to erect boundary pillars

1288. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian and Nepalese authorities have held talks for finalising survey work and identifying areas on border to erect permanent boundary pillars;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) what has been the result of these talks?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) India and Nepal have finalised the field programme for ground verification for demarcation of the international boundary between them for the forthcoming field season which concludes in May, 2002. Work has commenced from the north-eastern extremity in the Sikkim sector and is progressing towards north-western extremity along the boundary. This programme has been drawn in accordance with the earlier decisions of the Joint Technical Level Committee on India-Nepal Boundary (JTC) with a view to complete the final preparation of Boundary Strip Maps by 2003. This deadline was also endorsed at the level of the two Prime Ministers during the visit of the then Nepalese Prime Minister Mr. Girija Prasad Koirala to India in July-August, 2000.

Indians in foreign jails

1289. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL:

SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:

DR. A.K.. PATEL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that more than 6,600 Indian nationals are languishing in foreign jails, as reported in The Hindustan Times' dated the 8th November, 2001;

(b) whether Saudi Arabia tops the list with 1677 followed by Malaysia with 1040, Pakistan with 1036 and Europe with 300 and the country-wise details in this regard;