

and defence ties in various dialogue mechanisms. In these interactions, both sides have agreed to a trade target of US\$ 60 billion by 2010. They have also agreed to strengthen defence relations in accordance with the MoU for Exchanges and Cooperation in the field of Defence signed in 2006. The two sides have held two rounds of annual defence dialogue and conducted joint military exercise in 2007 and 2008. The two sides have not discussed China's participation in building infrastructure for the Commonwealth Games of 2010.

Nuclear test by North Korea

2145. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of nuclear test by North Korea, recently;
- (b) if so, whether Government has described the nuclear test by North Korea as a development of serious concern;
- (c) if so, whether in view of such developments, Government proposes to have eternal vigilance to meet any challenge to the national security from any quarter; and
- (d) if so, the further reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) and (b) In a statement on 25th May, 2009 External Affairs Minister said, "We have seen reports that DPRK has conducted a nuclear test on 25 May, 2009. For the DPRK to conduct such a test in violation of its international commitments would be unfortunate. Like others in the international community we are concerned at the adverse effect on peace and security in that region of such tests. We continue to monitor the situation."

(c) and (d) Government monitors all such developments which have a bearing on national security and is committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard the nation's security.

List of Pakistan's citizens involved in terror attacks

†2146. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has handed over the list of Pakistani citizens alleged to be involved in terrorist attacks in the country to Government of Pakistan;
- (b) if so, the total number of people included in this list upto June, 2009;
- (c) whether it has been requested to hand over these people to India or to prosecute them in Pakistan; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) and (b) Since August, 2004, lists of individuals including Pakistani nationals wanted for terrorist acts in India have been handed over 10 times to the Government of Pakistan, and most recently on 25-26 November, 2008 during the Home Secretary level talks with Pakistan. This lists 10 Pakistani nationals in a total list of 42 persons.

(c) and (d) It has been the stand of the Government that all those wanted for terrorist crimes should be brought to justice.

Malpractices in passport offices

2147. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:

SHRI P.R. RAJAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are incidents of malpractice in issuing passport in passport office in the country for the last five years;

(b) if so, the details including the action taken on the complaints of the passport offices for the last five years, State-wise, year-wise and incident-wise;

(c) if so, the details of passport issued on the recommendations of authorized signatories *i.e.* without the proper channel for the last five years, year-wise and State-wise;

(d) if so, the allegations, if any, on the passport issued under above category in details; and

(e) the steps taken to nail such incident?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes.

(b) to (d) Information is being collected along the requested lines.

(e) Government has taken various steps including:—

(i) sanctioning prosecution by the concerned investigating agencies; appropriate departmental action against the errant officials;

(ii) periodic surprise inspections, including vigilance inspections of Passport Offices;

(iii) under the Passport Seva Project, passports will be tracked from the India Security Press till issue to applicants. National level index checking will also be introduced to ensure that an applicant does not take a second passport from a different Passport Office; and

(iv) computerization of Passport Offices; computerized monitoring of processing of applications; and improvements in the security features in the passport.