

Tamils in Malaysia

†30. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is as vigilant about protecting the interests of the Tamils in Malaysia as it is about protecting the interests of the Tamils in Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the details of the efforts made in this direction; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) Yes, with due respect for the sovereignty of the States concerned.

(b) There is a large community of persons of Indian origin, predominantly Tamils in Malaysia. Their population is about 1.9 million, which accounts for about 8% of Malaysia's population. Tamils who migrated from India, make up over 70% of the Indian community. Most of them are now citizens of Malaysia, well integrated into their system. They are active in various walks of the Malaysian society and their rights as citizens of Malaysia are derived from the Malaysian constitution. Whenever there was some concern on the interest of Tamils living there, Government of India has suitably expressed its concern to protect their interests.

(c) Not applicable

Attacks on Indian students

†31. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:
SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian students studying in Australia have been attacked/are being attacked, recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government considers these attacks as racist; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/being taken by Government to stop these attacks?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details, as available, are given in the Annexure. [See Appendix 217 Annexure No. 2]

(c) Some of these could be treated as racial attacks — as stated by the Australian Government authorities.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) The matter has been taken up with the Australian Government at the highest level. It has been conveyed to them that such attacks should not be allowed to happen and that it is the responsibility of the police authorities in particular to ensure the well-being and security of our students in Australia. A brief on steps taken by the Government is given in the Statement. [Refer to the Statement appended to the answer to USQ No. 25 Pt (e) and (f).

Dialogue with Pakistan in Russian visit

†32. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:
SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Prime Minister had a dialogue with President of Pakistan during his recent visit to Russia;

(b) if so, the details of subject of dialogue and progress made thereof;

(c) whether Government has objected to lax attitude of Pakistan towards terrorism;

(d) if so, the details of Pakistan's reaction; and

(e) if not, the steps being taken by Government to counter Pakistan sponsored terrorism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) Prime Minister met the President of Pakistan Mr. Asif Ali Zardari on the sidelines of the SCO-BRIC summit in Yekaterinburg on 16th June, 2009.

(b) to (e) There was a detailed discussion on India-Pakistan relations. Prime Minister emphatically conveyed to President Zardari India's expectation that the Government of Pakistan will honour its commitments to take strong and effective action to prevent the use of Pakistani territory for terrorist attacks on India. Pakistan was specifically asked to act against perpetrators of terror attacks on India and to dismantle the infrastructure of terrorism in Pakistan. The Pakistan President explained to Prime Minister some of the efforts made by Pakistan to deal with the matter and the problems faced by them in this regard. It was agreed that the issue of terrorism which is the primary issue to be addressed would be discussed by the Foreign Secretaries of the two countries before the leaders of India and Pakistan met on the sidelines of the NAM summit at Sharm-el-Sheikh, Egypt in mid-July, 2009.

Irrigation projects

33. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.