

19 boats and 107 fishermen apprehended; in 2008, 334 boats and 1456 fishermen apprehended; and in 2009, 21 boats and 85 fishermen apprehended up till 10th July.

- (c) All the fishermen have been released by Sri Lankan authorities.
- (d) Does not arise.

Sub-committee for Haj

2923. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a sub-committee is formed to look after the arrangements of Hajis at Jeddah;
- (b) the composition of such sub-committee;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that in addition to such Committee another delegation is also sent to supervise the arrangement for pilgrims during annual Haj;
- (d) the number of delegates sent in such annual delegation for the last five years; and
- (e) the rationale of sending such a delegation despite the existence of a sub-committee in Central Haj Committee?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) No.

- (b) Not applicable.

(c) and (d) A three member delegation including Chairman of the Haj Committee of India visit Saudi Arabia each year during Haj pilgrimage. Last year, Chairman could not go during Haj.

- (e) Not applicable.

Problems of Hajis

2924. SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Hajis undertaking the pilgrimage through Central Haj Committee have been complaining about the erratic schedules of the Air India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Haj Committee has taken up the issue with the Air Lines; and
- (d) if so, the details of arrangements made to remove the difficulties?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (d) There have been some complaints regarding delay in Air India flights which was raised with Air India and Ministry of Civil Aviation. The delays happened due to airport congestion, delay in allotting the parking bay at Jeddah and inordinate delays at immigration counters.

After the Haj 2008 Review Meeting, the issues were addressed to Air India/Saudi Arabian airlines and the Ministry of Civil Aviation to ensure that all necessary measures be taken to remove difficulties faced in the past and the concerned authorities are taking suitable action.

Inclusion in UNSC

†2925. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has got an assurance from the international community for its inclusion in United Nations Security Council (UNSC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the future view of India in this regard; and

(d) the names of the countries which have extended their support in this matter alongwith the countries which have not supported it during the G-8 conference?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (c) Several countries have expressed support for India's permanent membership within an expanded Security Council, An Inter-Governmental negotiation process for Security Council reform, including its expansion, is ongoing in an informal Plenary of the UN General Assembly in which India is actively participating.

(d) Does not arise. This issue was not on the agenda of the G-8-Outreach Interaction held in L'Aquila, Italy, from 8-10 July, 2009.

Transit business

2926. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would take up the issue of transit business between northeastern States and the rest of the country across Bangladesh;

(b) whether the rivers and ports of Bangladesh would be made available through diplomatic talks enabling easy exercise of economy of both the North- Eastern States and Bangladesh; and

(c) the plan of Government in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (c) The issue regarding connectivity for North-Eastern States and rest of the country through Bangladesh has been regularly taken up with the Government of Bangladesh. Various proposals for strengthening connectivity between both countries are under discussion bilaterally, including through inland waterways, road, rail and ports. Government of India would continue to actively pursue these proposals with Bangladesh.

Camps in Sri Lanka

†2927. SHRI SHREE GOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.