

(b) out of those confined, a number of persons have been released by Government of Pakistan but due to declaring them dead by the State Government of Rajasthan, problem is being faced to repatriate them;

(c) whether any firm step has been taken by the Central Government to repatriate them, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) Pakistan has produced 54 prisoners to our High Commission in Islamabad for consular access. Of these the national status of 27 prisoners has been confirmed and 6 belong to Rajasthan (1 from Jaisalmer and 5 from Barmer). It is believed that there are 167 other Indian nationals in Pakistan jails, who have been produced for consular access. In the absence of consular access, it is not possible to confirm national status or the district of origin.

(b) Pakistan has not released any of those prisoners whose national status is confirmed.

(c) and (d) Government has been taking up issues concerning all Indian prisoners in Pakistani jails with the Government of Pakistan including at the highest levels. A judicial committee comprising of retired judges from India and Pakistan had been set up to ensure immediate consular access, expeditious release and humane treatment of prisoners in either country. The committee has held three meetings till date and has visited jails in both India and Pakistan to meet prisoners. Government continues to urge the Government of Pakistan to view the issue of prisoners in custody from a humanitarian angle and facilitate their earliest possible repatriation.

Chinese infrastructure in Himalayas

†1392. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:
SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether development of infrastructure such as construction of railway lines run-ways etc. by China in the Himalayan region has posed a serious threat and danger to the ecology of the area besides that of melting of glaciers there;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any committee or commission has been set up by Government to assess the extent of damage likely to be caused to India on account of melting of glaciers in the Himalayas;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the measures being taken to counter the situation;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(f) whether Government has taken up this matter of damage being caused to the Himalayan ecology with China; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) and (b) Government has seen reports about development of infrastructure in the Tibet Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China aimed at development of China's western region, including the construction of a road to Mt. Everest.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Under the Government's National Action Plan on Climate Change, a National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem will be established to evolve measures for sustaining and safeguarding the Himalayas.

(f) and (g) No. Does not arise.

PSI of US administration

1393. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States administrations has sounded out to India on their Proliferations Security Initiatives (PSI);

(b) whether India adopt any decision on PSI; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) Yes. The US has shared with us the details and rationale of the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI).

(b) and (c) Indian officials have attended some meetings of the PSI as 'Observers'. There is no decision to join the PSI.

Meeting on Indus Water Treaty

1394. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was a meeting of technological committee on Indus Water Treaty between India and Pakistan, recently;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that Pakistan demanded a compensation for allegedly not providing adequate water for the country last year; and

(c) if so, Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) Under the provisions of the Indus Waters Treaty 1960 between India and Pakistan, the Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) held its 103rd meeting in New Delhi during 31 May – 5 June, 2009.