

(c) whether Government failed to consult the stakeholders before approving and proceeding with this treaty; and

(d) the steps proposed to review this treaty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No such agreements has been signed by Government of India.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

### **Indians held in foreign countries**

160. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government periodically review the state and number of Indian persons in various foreign countries;

(b) whether it is a fact that no concerted and definite plan is in place to secure the release of Indian citizens held in various foreign countries;

(c) whether a permanent machinery would be set up to constantly pursue the various foreign countries to repatriate Indians held abroad; and

(d) the steps proposed to immediately evolve a policy to obtain the release of Indian persons held abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes.

(b) to (d) The Government of India, through Indian Missions and Posts abroad, make all possible efforts to get Indian nationals in foreign jails released quickly and provide necessary assistance which includes requesting speedy trials seeking remission of sentence, seeking consular access to the detainees and prisoners, providing advice/guidance in legal and other matters, interacting with their relatives in India, ensuring fair and humane treatment in foreign jails, and facilitating repatriation to India on their eventual release.