

the visit of the Chinese Premier to India. The talks are now focused on exploring the framework for a final package settlement covering all sectors of the India-China boundary. The two sides have agreed to maintain peace and tranquility in the border areas pending a final settlement of the Boundary Question and have put in place various Confidence Building Measures to this end.

Extradition agreement with countries

†1563. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering for extradition agreement with several countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the names of the countries with whom India has extradition agreement at present; and
- (d) the number of terrorists/criminals extradited to India under this agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR) : (a) and (b) Yes, it is the policy of the Government of India to conclude extradition Treaties with as many countries as possible to ensure availability of fugitive criminals for trial. Negotiations are held through diplomatic channels on the basis of drafts proposed by the either side.

(c) India has Extradition Treaties in force with 31 countries/regions, namely, Belgium, Nepal, Canada, The Netherlands, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Bhutan, Hong Kong, United States of America, the Russian Federation, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Spain, Turkey, Mongolia, Germany, Tunisia, Republic of Korea, Oman, France, South Africa, Bahrain, Poland, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Kuwait, Belarus, Mauritius, Portugal, Mexico and Tajikistan. In addition, India has Extradition arrangements with 9 countries namely Australia, Fiji, Italy, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Tanzania and Thailand.

(d) 42 criminals were extradited by the foreign countries to India since 2002.

Agreement with Bhutan

†1564. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that recently there has been agreement on some issues between India and Bhutan;
- (b) if so, the details of those issues;
- (c) the basis for agreement between the two countries; and
- (d) amount allocated by Government to complete these projects?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA) : (a) to (d) During the visit of the King of Bhutan of India from December 21-26, 2009, twelve Agreements/MoUs covering cooperation in air services, health, drug demand reduction and prevention of illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, information and communication technology, pollution control, search and rescue operations, preparation of master plan for power transmission lines, seed technology, and preparation/updation of Detailed Project Reports of hydropower projects were signed in the presence of the King of Bhutan and the Prime Minister of India. India and Bhutan share a special relationship based on mutual trust, understanding and extensive cooperation encompassing a broad range of sectors. The Agreements/MoUs signed during the visit of the King of Bhutan to India further strengthen our close relations with Bhutan. As the Agreements and MoUs are implemented over a period of time, allocations are made accordingly in annual budgets.

Selection of Haj pilgrims

1565.SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) the criteria for selection of Haj pilgrims;
- (b) the details thereof;
- (c) the fate of applicants who apply every year; and
- (d) whether they would get a chance of Haj?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR) : (a) and (b) In accordance with the Haj Agreement signed with the Government of Saudi Arabia, the Haj quota is allotted between the Haj Committee of India (HCOI) and the Private Tour Operators (PTOs). Subsequently, HCOI allocates its quota among various State on the basis of the percentage of Muslim population in the States as per 2001 census. HCOI then invites applications from the intending pilgrims and thereafter the selection is made through a computerized qurrah (draw of lots). The quota can be availed under this category only once in five years.

(c) and (d) The matter regarding priority for those Haj applications who had applied for several consecutive years but not been selected in under the consideration of the Government .

Passport offices in Gujarat

1566.SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the principle approvals considered by his Ministry, new passport offices at Rajkot and Vadodara in Gujarat State have to be established in the year 2009 for further extension of services in the State;