

- (b) if so, the details of the agreements entered into between India and Saudi Arabia; and
- (c) in what manner the above agreements benefit India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR) : (a) During the Indo-Saudi Joint Commission meeting held in Riyadh from October 27-31, 2009 both sides expressed their satisfaction with the development of their commercial relations and facilitation of issuing multiple entry business visas to their respective business communities, and encouraged them to take full advantage of these facilities. To this effect, both sides agreed to grant six months multiple entry visas to business persons on production of a letter from the concerned chambers of commerce and export promotion councils in the country of the applicants.

(b) and (c) No agreements were signed with Saudi Arabia during indo-Saudi Joint Commission meeting held in Riyadh from 27-31 October 2009.

Torture of fishermen by Sri Lankan soldiers

†2178. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that recently Sri Lankan soldiers tortured Indian fishermen and destroyed their fishing nests;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that fishermen have lodged a complaint with States Department of fisheries; and
- (c) if so, whether an enquiry has been made from Sri Lankan Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA) : (a) There have been incidents of apprehension and firing upon Indian fishermen allegedly by the Sri Lankan Navy. However, Sri Lankan Navy has denied responsibility in all incidents of firing on Indian fishermen.

(b) Government has not been informed of any complaint lodged by fishermen with States Department of Fisheries on torture by Sri Lankan soldiers.

(c) No.

Officials killed in attack in Kabul

2179. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of Indians including embassy officials were killed on the 26th February, 2010 in a series of attacks held in Kabul, Afghanistan;
- (b) if so, the facts and details thereof;
- (c) whether the Indians working in various development projects in Afghanistan are feeling insecure and unsafe;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the facts thereof and whether similar attacks occurred in the past few years also in Afghanistan; and

(e) if so, whether Government has since contemplated any steps to provide safety and security to Indians working there if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA) : (a) and (b) Seven Indians died as a result of the terrorist attack in Kabul on February 26, 2010, which targeted a guest house and nearby Hotel, used among others, by Indian nationals. The Indians who died as a result of the attack were two language instructors, a doctor with the Indian Medical Mission in Kabul, a senior official of the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, two officials of the Consulate Generals of India in Herat and Kandahar, and a musician who was a part of cultural troupe sponsored by the Indian Council of Cultural Relations.

(c) and (d) The security situation in Afghanistan has deteriorated in the recent past. Terrorist attacks in Kabul and other parts of the country have affected Afghans and foreigners, including Indians working in Afghanistan.

(e) Government of India is comprehensively reviewed and enhanced security measures being taken for the safety of our personnel and other Indians working in Afghanistan. It is also in regular touch with the Government of Afghanistan, which has assured all necessary steps for the security of Indians in that country. Indian nationals registered with the Embassy are being regularly advised about the prevailing security scenario in the country through security advisories. These advisories outline the precautions that need to be taken for their own safety and security.

Passport to girls married to NRIs

2180. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to introduce a dual passport system for girls married to NRIs;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the objectives for introduction of such system;

(c) whether Government has made consultation with various stake holders in this regard;

(d) if so, the details and the response received by Government from them in this regard; and

(e) the extent to which the objectives are likely to be achieved after the introduction of said system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR) : (a) No. Under the Passports Act, a person can hold only one passport. A person needs an entry/residence visa to stay in a foreign country which is affixed on