

Issuing of Stapled Visa by China

†2952. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Chinese embassies situated in Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata are still issuing stapled visa to Indian citizens of Jammu and Kashmir despite objection by India;
- (b) if so, the steps being taken by Government of India in this regard; and
- (c) the way in which Government of India takes this activity of Chinese embassy?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) to (c) Government is aware that China is issuing visas on a separate paper that is stapled to the passports of Indian nationals from the State of Jammu & Kashmir. Such visas are not considered valid for travel out of the country. Government's position is that there should be no discrimination against visa applicants of Indian nationality on grounds of domicile and ethnicity. This matter has been taken up with the Chinese side, including during the recent visit of External Affairs Minister to China in April 2010. Government has clearly conveyed its concerns to the Chinese Government in this regard.

Chinese concern over naval built up

2953. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that China had expressed its concern over Naval built-up in Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea when Indian-led Milan multi-lateral exercises were held in June 2009, on the plea of overlapping sovereignty claims to Sparty island in the South-China sea;
- (b) if so, whether the so-called claims of overlapping sovereignty was based on factual data of the maritime boundaries; and
- (c) whether suspicions of China was duly resolved, Milan being a non-military forum?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) to (c) No. Does not arise.

Pre-requisites for dialogue with Pakistan

2954. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) the pre-requisites for a viable dialogue process between India and Pakistan at the highest levels;

(b) the outcome of the meetings of our Prime Minister and President of Pakistan twice and our Prime Minister and the Prime Minister of Pakistan thrice and the foreign Ministers of both countries during the past two years; and

(c) whether the composite dialogue process has been counter-productive and Pakistan has used it to divert attention from its promotion of terrorism within India by finding fault of India's approach to Jammu and Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (c) Government has reiterated on several occasions that the door for dialogue with Pakistan has never been closed and meaningful dialogue with Pakistan is possible only in an environment free of terror or threat of terror. The Composite Dialogue, which had been resumed in 2004 based on Pakistan's express assurance not to allow its territory for terrorist activity in any manner, addresses eight subjects, including Peace & Security including Confidence Building Measures and Jammu & Kashmir. It has been paused since the Mumbai terrorist attack in November 2008. In various meetings with the leaders of Pakistan since then, India has reiterated the need for Pakistan to fulfill its repeated assurances, including those given at the highest level, not to allow the use of territory under its control for terrorism directed against India. Pakistan, in response, has assured that action will be taken against the perpetrators of the Mumbai terrorist attack.

US-Pakistan Nuclear Deal

2955. PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of reports in the media that Pakistan and USA are negotiating a Nuclear Deal, similar to the deal signed by the latter with India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such a step would be detrimental to our interests;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (e) Government have seen media reports about a possible nuclear deal between the US and Pakistan. In this context, Government have taken note that US officials have stated recently that they are focused on helping Pakistan meet its energy needs by other means.