

(b) whether any issue raised by the country has been turned down by Pakistan;

(c) whether these talks have yielded some positive results and whether talks at any level would be held with Pakistan in near future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (d) In the Foreign Secretary-level talks held in New Delhi on February 25, 2010, India reiterated the need for Pakistan to fulfill the assurances given by its leaders not to allow the use of territory under Pakistan's control for terrorism directed against India. During the talks, additional information on terrorism directed against India emanating from Pakistan was also handed over to the Pakistani side for investigation and appropriate action. The Foreign Secretary of Pakistan conveyed the desire of his Government to make all possible efforts for a successful conclusion of the Mumbai attack trial which is ongoing in Pakistan. Pakistan raised certain issues which were responded to appropriately, reiterating our national position on these issues. It was proposed by India that urgent humanitarian matters of a bilateral nature, should be addressed. The talks constituted a useful step towards restoring dialogue and better communication between the two Governments. The two Foreign Secretaries agreed to remain in touch.

#### **Closing of Visa Centres**

2964. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some visa centres were closed recently in our country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to provide alternative arrangements for the convenience of passengers in future during such times?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) Government is not operating any visa centres in India.

(b) and (c) That does not arise.

#### **Countries offering dual Citizenship**

2965. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ:

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the countries in the world that offer dual citizenship to their nationals and on what terms?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): The information is being collected and would be laid on the table of the House.

**Steps to protect Indians in Afghanistan**

2966. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has assured steps to protect Indians in Afghanistan and in other countries also;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the progress achieved so far in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) Government of India has comprehensively reviewed and enhanced security measures required for the safety of our personnel and other Indians working in Afghanistan. It is also in regular touch with the Government of Afghanistan for necessary security for Indians in that Country. Indian nationals registered with the Embassy are 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 during their movements within the country.

**Population in slum areas**

2967. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the latest update estimate of population living in slum areas;
- (b) the increase in slum population since Census 2001;
- (c) the statistics of total achievements under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana, Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) and Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP);
- (d) whether any survey has been conducted to assess what slum dwellers feel regarding efficacy of said programmes; and
- (e) if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA ROY): (a) and (b) As per Town and Country Planning Organisation (TCPO) estimates, the slum population in the country in 2001 was 61.8 million. No updated estimate has been released by Census of India or TCPO.