

Sufi saints of Kashmir

312. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is aware that saints and sufis in Kashmir had preached the message of peace and harmony, over centuries;

(b) whether it is also known that many of the graveyards and samadhi of these saints are now in a dilapidated condition; and

(c) whether Government would take measures to repair / reconstruct these places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The monuments namely Tomb of Zain-ul-Abidin's mother, Khanqah of Shah Hamdan, structural complex of Parimahal, Mosque of Akhoun Mulla Shah, concerning the history of saints & sufis in Kashmir are under the Central protection and are in good state of preservation. The conservation work at these monuments is attended regularly depending upon the availability of resources and need of repairs at site.

Discussion with Russia's Security Council Secretary

313. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:

SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has discussed the issue of strengthening counter-terrorism and intelligence sharing mechanism with Russia's Security Council Secretary; and

(b) if so, the details of discussion held between India and Russia on terror-related issues?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) Yes. Following the signing of a protocol between the Security Council Secretariats of India and the Russian Federation in April 2000, our National Security Advisor and the Secretary of Russian Security Council have been meeting regularly. Secretary of the Russian Security Council Mr. Nikolai Patrushev and the National Security Advisor Shri Shivshankar Menon met in New Delhi on 1st February 2010. They reviewed the progress in bilateral relations in the strategic sphere such as defence and nuclear energy cooperation. In addition, they also discussed mechanisms for strengthening cooperation so that terror attacks can be thwarted more effectively.

Chinese incursion in Ladakh

314. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

SHRI N.K.SINGH:

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state: