

#### **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 Akhoon 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:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the Chinese incursions and encroachments into India's territory in Ladakh;
- (b) if so, the facts and details thereof;
- (c) whether Government proposes to strengthen its frontiers and take up the matter with the Chinese Government; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Chinese authorities in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (d) India and China are, through negotiations, seeking to arrive at a final settlement of the International Boundary between India and China. There is no commonly delineated Line of Actual Control (LAC) between the two countries. From time to time, on account of differences in the perception of the LAC, situations have arisen on the ground that could have been avoided if we had a common perception of the LAC. Since 1993, the two Governments have agreed to maintain peace and tranquility along the LAC in the India-China border areas, without prejudice to their respective positions on the alignment of the LAC as well as on the boundary question. Government regularly takes up any violation along the LAC with the Chinese side through established mechanisms including the Joint Working Group, the Expert Group, border personnel meetings, flag meetings and diplomatic channels. Prime Ministers of India and China have reiterated, on many occasions that pending the final settlement of the boundary question, peace and tranquility should be maintained in our border areas. Government keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's security and takes all necessary measures to safeguard it.

#### **Lashkar-e-Taiba's base in Maldives**

315. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that Pakistan based Lashkar-e-Taiba has been trying to set up base in isolated islands in Maldives;
- (b) if so, whether Government has decided to have anti-terror agreements with Maldives and proposes to take steps to ensure that Lashkar-e-Taiba should not set up base there; and
- (c) if so, the other strategies likely to be formulated by Government to ensure that anti-Indian and terrorist groups are not setting their base in the neighbouring friendly countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) We have no come across any credible reports of Lashkar-e-Taiba setting up a base in the Maldives.