

Extradition treaty with Saudi Arabia

317. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is actively considering to have extradition treaty with Saudi Arabia to deny underworld fugitives any hideouts;
- (b) if so, the present status of the agreement and the time by which it is likely to be finalized;
- (c) whether Government has taken up the matter of underworld dons on whom Government of India proposes to take legal action but hiding in Saudi Arabia; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Republic of India and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are actively considering signing an Extradition Treaty at the earliest possible to ensure the availability of criminals for trial.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. So far the Ministry of External Affairs has not received any such extradition request from any agency/Ministry to be forwarded to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Bilateral summit of Afghanistan

318. SHRI B.S. GNANDESIKAN:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the agenda of deliberation during the recent bilateral summit between India and Turkey that took place in Delhi;
- (b) whether Government took up the issue of India's exclusion from the recent meeting on Afghanistan that took place in Istanbul;
- (c) if so, the response of the Turkish side; and
- (d) whether Government has taken a view of the outcome of the said meeting in Istanbul?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) During the State visit to India by Turkish President Abdullah Gul, delegation level talks covered bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest.

(b) and (c) The Turkish side *suo moto* clarified that they would have liked India to be present at the Istanbul meeting on Afghanistan. However, the meeting had evolved from trilateral format involving Afghanistan, Pakistan and Turkey. It was not possible to arrive at a consensus on Indian participation. The Turkish side also acknowledged India's positive role in Afghanistan's economic development.

(d) Government has taken note of the out come of the meeting in Istanbul.