

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) led by Ministers of Water Resources from both sides has met in New Delhi and held 37th meeting of JRC on March 17-20, 2010. Two sides discussed all issues of bilateral cooperation in water resources including sharing of water of common rivers, river bank protection works, drinking water supply to sabroom town of south Tripura & minor irrigation schemes proposed on river Feni, co-operation in flood forecasting, etc.

During the JRC meeting, the Bangladesh side proposed to have an early agreement on interim sharing of Teesta river waters during dry season (October-April) and presented a draft on interim sharing arrangements for consideration. In this regard, the Indian side suggested that principles on sharing of Teesta water based on joint hydrological observations, to assess the total water availability in the river, may be decided first to arrive at mutual understanding on the sharing of water and presented a draft statement thereof. After discussion, it was agreed that the Secretaries (Water Resources) of both the countries would examine the aforesaid documents towards an expeditious conclusion on interim agreement and have further discussions on other outstanding issues to resolve them in the spirit of mutual cooperation as reflected in the Joint Communique issued during Bangladesh Prime Minister's Visit to India.

Extradition treaties with countries

3753. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to sign extradition treaties with a number of countries in the near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has recently signed any extradition treaties in the past few months; and

(d) if so, the benefits, if any, that have accrued from such extradition treaties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) and (b) It is the policy of the Government of India to conclude Extradition Treaties with as many countries as possible. India has already initiated Extradition Treaties with Bosnia & Herzegovina, Israel, Morocco, Nepal (New Treaty) and Vietnam, to be signed in the near future.

(c) and (d) India has signed Extradition Treaties with Malaysia in January 2010 and Saudi Arabia in February 2010 in order to ensure availability of fugitive criminals for trial in India.

Germany's assurance for cooperation

3754. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Germany has assured cooperation to India in a wide range of areas;

(b) if so, whether any agreements have been entered into with Germany during the recent visit of President of Germany to India; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) to (c) During the visit of the German President Dr. Horst Koehler to India from 1-7 February, 2010, discussions on bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest took place. No Agreements were signed during the visit of the German President.

Practice of stapled/dual visa by China

3755. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry expressed the concern to China on their practice of issuing stapled visas/dual visa policy for Kashmiris during the recent China visit; and

(b) if so, Chinese Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) and (b) Yes. The matter of China issuing stapled visa to Indian citizens from the State of Jammu and Kashmir was raised during the visit of External Affairs Minister to Beijing in April 2010. It was conveyed to the Chinese side that such visas are not considered valid for travel out of the country. India's position that, there should be no discrimination against visa applicants of Indian nationality on grounds of domicile and ethnicity was once again clearly conveyed to the Chinese side. The Chinese Foreign Minister said that China's position in this regard has been consistent and has not changed.