

Developed Countries (LDCs) from 744 to 480 items under SAFTA, thereby granting them greater access to the Indian Market.

(d) SAARC is pursuing the creation a regional Free Trade Area in South Asia through the implementation of SAFTA. Similarly, SAARC Charter Bodies have approved regional perspective plans in other areas such as agriculture, roadmap for South Asian Economic Union, etc. However, SAARCs mandate does not extend to developing individual country plans.

Al Qaeda hunting for nuclear bombs

3747. SHRI K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that US President had recently warned that Al Qaeda was on hunt for nuclear bombs;
- (b) if so, Government's comments thereto;
- (c) whether this aspect was discussed in the recent conference held in USA; and
- (d) the action plan that is being prepared in association with the US President ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) Yes. At a Nuclear Security Summit held on 12-13 April 2010 at Washington D.C., the US President Barack Obama said that terrorist networks such as Al Queda have tried to acquire materials for a nuclear weapon.

(b) Speaking at the Summit, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh said that India is deeply concerned about the danger of nuclear explosives or fissile material and technical know-how falling in to the hands of non-State actors.

(c) and (d) The Summit adopted a Communique and a Work Plan which are aimed at fostering political commitment on strengthening nuclear security and follow up action in forums such as the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Indian embassies in China

†3748. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of embassies working in China;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.