

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (c) Government closely monitors developments in Afghanistan. India has conveyed to its international partners, including the Government of Afghanistan, that any process of reintegration in Afghanistan should only include those individuals who abjure violence, have no links with terrorist groups, and are willing to accept the democratic and pluralistic values of the Afghan Constitution. The process should be Afghan led, inclusive and transparent. Our consistent position has been that in the interests of peace and stability, these redlines for the reintegration process should be scrupulously adhered to. External interference in the reintegration process would be detrimental both for its success and for the future of a democratic, stable, pluralistic and prosperous Afghanistan.

The Communique issued after the Kabul Conference, which was co-chaired by President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan and UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, also refers to the redlines for the reintegration process. It also referred to combating terrorism by ending support, sustenance and sanctuaries for terrorists.

Government is committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard the nation's interests.

#### **Indo-Pak bilateral discussion**

1226. SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any discussions were held recently between India and Pakistan on various bilateral issues;

(b) if so, the details and outcome thereof;

(c) whether Government has proposed any measures to Pakistan Government to stop cross-border terrorism activities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and response given by the Pakistan Government?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (d) External Affairs Minister (EAM) met the Foreign Minister of Pakistan (PFM) on July 15, 2010 in Islamabad. The Ministers reviewed the current state of bilateral relations and discussed steps to promote trust and confidence. EAM conveyed our core concerns on terrorism to the Pakistan side. PFM assured that the Government of Pakistan will do everything in its power to fulfil the commitment given by Pakistan of not allowing its territory to be used for terrorism against India. He also assured that the investigation in the Mumbai terrorist attack case, taking into account the additional information coming out of the recent interrogation of David Coleman Headley and provided by our Home Minister during his visit to Pakistan in June 2010, would be pursued vigorously to unravel the full conspiracy and bring all the perpetrators of that horrific crime to justice.

As part of a step-by-step, graduated and forward-looking approach to expanding dialogue to cover all issues of mutual interest and concern, EAM expressed our willingness to have further interaction on pressing humanitarian issues, particularly early release and repatriation of prisoners and fishermen in jails in both countries; promotion of trade and commerce; streamlining and strengthening cross-LoC Confidence Building Measures for the welfare of the people of Jammu and Kashmir; and greater people-to-people contacts/friendly exchanges.

The detailed and frank discussions held during the visit enabled both the countries to develop a better understanding of each others' position and point of view on various issues. Despite differences of opinion on the way forward on a few issues, there was a broad understanding on a number of other issues. PFM accepted EAM's invitation to visit Delhi at a suitable date to be decided through diplomatic channels.

#### **Surrendering of Indian passports**

1227. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently directed People of Indian Origin (PIO) in US to surrender their Indian passports within ninety days;

(b) whether this notification has created a big hindrance in getting visas for them for travelling to India and they have requested Government to reconsider the direction; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the stance of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Dual citizenship is not allowed under the Citizenship Act. Indian passports are therefore required to be surrendered by all Persons of Indian Origin after acquisition of foreign nationality in accordance with the Citizenship Act and the Passports Act, to prevent its misuse.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Theft of documents from missions abroad**

1228. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps that has been taken by the Ministry to prevent theft of sensitive and crucial documents and information related to security of our nation from our missions abroad; and

(b) the steps that have been taken by the Ministry to monitor statistical data of visa sticker and passport from our missions abroad to avoid misuse?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) Procedures already exist and are implemented for the security and custody of sensitive and crucial documents and