

(b) and (c) Government has seen reports that Pakistan and China have entered into an agreement for construction of two additional nuclear power plant units at Chashma. Both countries have stated that their nuclear cooperation is for peaceful purposes, consistent with their international obligations and subject to IAEA safeguards. Government continuously monitors all developments having a bearing on national security and takes all necessary steps to safeguard it.

Visit of US National security advisor

2009. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether US National Security Adviser visited India in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the details of various issues discussed with him during his recent visit; and
- (c) the extent to which the strategic partnership between India and the USA has been strengthened?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) Yes. US National Security Adviser, General James Jones visited India on 14 & 15 July 2010. Issues discussed were the bilateral agenda, regional and global issues of common concern.

(c) India and USA have steadily intensified their strategic partnership through the implementation of the various initiatives announced since the visit of Prime Minister to the USA in July 2005. The bilateral agenda has continued to expand, building on strategic, economic and political initiatives. A number of mechanisms for co-operation under the India-US Dialogues, frequent interactions at multiple levels and the formalization of bilateral understandings into agreements that are presently under implementation – have ensured the strengthening of the bilateral partnership. The India-US Strategic Dialogue in June 2010 – which focused on strategic planning to determine the next steps for India-US collaboration – was yet another step in this direction.

Discussion on Afghanistan

2010. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he had recently attended a conference on Afghanistan attended by the representatives of sixty countries;

(b) if so, the details of the issues discussed; and

(c) the final decisions taken therein?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) Shri S.M. Krishna, External Affairs Minister, attended the 'Kabul International Conference on Afghanistan' on July 20, 2010 in Kabul. The Conference was co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Hamid Karzai, President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the United Nations. The Conference marked the beginning of the 'Kabul Process' in the partnership between Afghanistan and the international community. It emphasized on Afghan leadership and ownership of the whole process. The Conference involved a reiteration by the International community of its long term commitment to Afghanistan.

The conference affirmed support for relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions upholding the security, prosperity and human rights of all Afghans and in particular the central role of the UN in supporting the Afghan Government's efforts in achieving these goals. Through the Communique issued after the Conference, participants reiterated the re-lines on the reintegration process, namely renunciation of violence, absence of links to international terrorist organizations, respect for the Afghan Constitution, and willingness to join in building a peaceful Afghanistan. Participants also welcomed the Government of Afghanistan's commitment to a phased exercise of full authority over its own security.

(c) A 'Kabul Conference Communique' was issued at the conclusion of the Conference.

Killing of Fishermen by Sri Lankan Navy

2011. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several fishermen from Tamil Nadu had become victims or lost their lives at the hands of Sri Lankan Navy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;