

(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;

(c) the total number of fishermen who lost their lives due to firing by Sri Lankan Navy on them during the last two years; and

(d) whether Government had held any discussion with Sri Lankan Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (d) There have been incidents of apprehension and firing upon Indian fishermen allegedly by the Sri Lankan Navy. However, the Sri Lankan Navy has denied responsibility in such incidents of firing on Indian fishermen. In 2008, the number of fishermen reported killed was 5 with 1 missing. In 2009, there were no fishermen killed or missing. Recently we have had an incident in which one fishermen was killed and three injured.

We are constantly in touch with Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) on the issue of safety and security of our fishermen. Further, as soon as such incidents are brought to our notice, the matter is taken up immediately with Government of Sri Lanka on a priority basis. Keeping in mind the humanitarian and livelihood dimension of the issue, on 26th October 2008, both sides agreed to put in place practical arrangements to deal with *bona fide*. Indian and Sri Lankan fishermen crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL). As part of these practical arrangements, it was decided that there will be no firing on Indian fishermen and vessels and Indian fishing vessels will not tread into sensitive areas designated by GoSL along its coastline. We have impressed on the Government of Sri Lanka to ensure that the Sri Lankan Navy to act with restraint, not fire on our fishermen and treat our fishermen in a humane manner.

Bilateral relationship with Kosova

2012. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the step that has been taken by the Ministry to make bilateral relationship with Kosova;
- (b) whether Government has any agenda to recognize this country; and
- (c) if so, the details thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) India has not recognized the 17 February 2008 Unilateral Declaration of Independence by Kosovo.