

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The matter was being examined when it was decided to address the issue after the vacant post of Chairperson, Sangeet Natak Akademi was filled up. Now that a Chairperson has been appointed on 10.08.2010, further processing of the case will be expedited.

(c) The issue is under examination.

(d) Does not arise.

Kabul Conference

2755. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Minister has attended the Kabul conference held recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that huge interests of India in Afghanistan are at stake due to sudden change of Afghanistan's policy;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether in the conference, India's position could be successfully defended; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) 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.

(c) to (f) India and Afghanistan share rich historical and civilizational ties and a vibrant development partnership. The Government of Afghanistan, at its highest levels, has emphasized the importance it attaches to bilateral relations with India, and reiterated its interest in further

strengthening the relationship. The External Affairs Minister held constructive discussions with President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan as well as Foreign Minister Zalmay Rassoul and National Security Adviser Rangin Dadfar Spanta during his visit to Kabul.

The Kabul Conference enabled India to reaffirm its strong support for and commitment to assisting the government and people of Afghanistan in their development and, for a peaceful, stable Afghanistan.

Kishan Ganga Hydel Project in international court

†2756. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has referred Kishan Ganga Hydel Project to the arbitration of international court;

(b) if so, the initiative taken by Indian to make this ambitious project free of international court;

(c) whether Pakistan is challenging the previous judgement of international court on the distribution of Indus river water between India and Pakistan; and

(d) whether due to this challenge by Pakistan, the work of Kishan Ganga Project has been discontinued, if so, the delay in the project this action would cause?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) Pakistan has instituted the proceedings for setting up a Court of Arbitration under the provisions of the Indus Water Treaty 1960 on Kishenganga hydroelectric project.

(b) India has explained the compliance of the project with the provisions of the Treaty in the meetings of the Permanent Indus Commission. In its communications, India has also reiterated that the issues raised by Pakistan could be resolved in a positive spirit at the level of the Permanent Indus Commission or at Government level.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The works of the Kishenganga project have not been discontinued.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.