

Consulate General of India at Birgunj:

31. Responding to the long-standing indian request for the setting up of the Consulate General of India at Birgunj, the Nepalese side informed that the request was under consideration of His Majesty's Government.

Invitation:

32. The Prime Minister of Nepal invited the Prime Ministers of India to pay an official visit to Nepal an early date. The invitation was accepted with pleasure. The dates of the visit would be decided through diplomatic channels.

Transfer of Chinese Missile Technology to Pakistan

3340. SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the visit of Chinese Foreign Minister, Government took up the matter with regard to transfer of Chinese Missile Technology to Pakistan;

(b) if so, details of discussion therefor; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Our concerns on Sino-Pakistan military cooperation, which includes cooperation in the field of missiles, were reiterated. China maintains that it has normal state-to-state relations with Pakistan including normal military co-operation and that Sino-Pakistan cooperation was not target against any third country.

Export of IT Professionals

†3341. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWAR1: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries from which proposals for export of information technology professionals have been received by Government togetherwith the country-wise details thereof;

(b) whether Government have given consideration to the proposals of these countries;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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(c) whether Government are capable to meet the requirements of these countries; and

(d) if so, the action taken, so far by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) Several countries including USA, UK, Italy, Germany, Ireland, Japan, China and Singapore have evinced keen interest in utilising the services of Information Technology professionals from India. The Government has not placed any restriction on their movement to other countries.

Meantime, the Government has on 7th August, 2000 constituted a Task Force to prepare a long term strategy for human resource development in the area of Information Technology.

Pirated software in Companies

3342. SHRIMATI AMBIKASONI:

SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that number of Government organisations and corporate houses are using pirated software in their offices;

(b) if so, the details of the complaints received from the affected organisations and steps taken to contain piracy in software;

(c) whether Government have approved the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) and Business Software Alliance (BSA) for their help in containing piracy in software; and

(d) if so, the details of impact on the measures taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (d) While the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) and Business Software Alliance (BSA) are actively engaged in containing piracy, the Government has also taken several steps in this regard as below:

- Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) of Software is covered under the Copyright law violation of which attracts both fine and imprisonment.