

#### **Concrete rail link upto Arunachal Pradesh**

1591. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that China has started work on extending rail link to Nyangtri which is located on the border with Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether China has been claiming that Nyangtri prefecture includes some parts of Arunachal Pradesh; and

(c) whether India is planning to build railways infrastructure which would connect rest of the country with Arunachal Pradesh right up to its border with China, as such a step would conclusively establish India's claim that entire Arunachal Pradesh is an Indian territory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED):

(a) to (c) Government is aware that China is developing rail links in the border regions opposite India in the Tibet Autonomous Region, including the proposed extension of the Qinghai-Tibet Railway line upto Nyingchi. Government is giving careful and special attention to the development of infrastructure in the border areas opposite China, in order to meet our strategic and security requirements and also to facilitate the economic development of these areas. This includes the States of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. Government keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's security and takes all necessary measures to safeguard it.

#### **Tagging of Indian students**

1592. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all Indian students at the Tri Valley University were radio tagged by the US authorities after the university was charged with immigration fraud;

(b) whether legal aid has been provided to these students by the Indian Government;

(c) if so, the nature and status thereof;

(d) whether Indian citizens were involved in the alleged immigration fraud; and

(e) if so, the nature thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED):

(a) No. Only 18 of the approximately 1500 enrolled Indian students at the Tri-Valley University were radio-tagged by US authorities on 19 January 2011 following closure of Tri-Valley University in California for alleged fraudulent practices. As on 2nd March 2011, radio-tags from 13 students have been removed and others are under review.

(b) and (c) Our Mission and Posts in the United States are regularly meeting students and providing appropriate guidance and advisories. A free legal-aid camp for affected students was organized by the Consulate General of India in San Francisco. Some of the affected students have engaged attorneys to represent their case, including for removal of radio-tags.

(d) and (e) Investigations by US authorities into the case of alleged fraudulent practices by Tri-Valley University management and students are ongoing. The students have not been charged for illegal immigration, but for possible violation of visa conditions, including those related to class attendance, residence and work.

#### **Fisherman in jails of Sri Lanka**

1593. SHRI N. K. SINGH: Will the Minister EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian fishermen that were detained by the Sri Lankan Navy in the last one year;

(b) whether these fishermen have been released by the Sri Lankan Government;

(c) the reasons for execution of two Indian fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy in January 2011; and

(d) whether the issue has been taken up by Government with the Sri Lanka Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED):

(a) and (b) In 2010, 34 Indian fishermen were apprehended by Sri Lankan Navy and subsequently released. In 2011, in two separate incidents both in February, 136 Indian fishermen were apprehended by Sri Lanka and subsequently released. As of now there are no verified Indian fishermen in Sri Lankan jails.