

(a) whether Indian diplomats have been subjected to enhanced security checks at US airports;

(b) if so, whether Government has registered our protest about it with the US authorities; and

(c) whether Government is considering to extend the same treatment to the diplomats of the countries who don't extend the diplomatic privileges to our diplomats?

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

(a) Government is aware that enhanced security procedures, inconsistent with diplomatic courtesies and privileges, were recently sought to be applied at US airports for India's Ambassador to the United States and India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

(b) Indian diplomats are accorded privileges in the United States under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. Government has conveyed to US Government that while it respects the right of each country to institute necessary security procedures at their airports, internationally recognised diplomatic courtesies and privileges, as well as the cultural and religious sensitivities of all travellers, must be respected. The US Government has expressed regret for these incidents and has conveyed that it will take steps to avoid similar incidents in the future.

(c) Government accords diplomatic privileges to all foreign diplomats in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

Outcome of meeting with Pakistan's Foreign Minister

1908. DR. BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of the recent meeting of Foreign Ministers of India and Pakistan in New Delhi;

(b) the details of the issues discussed in the meet;

(c) the views of the Pakistani delegation regarding the trials going on in Rawalpindi Courts on the accused of 26/11 Mumbai terrorist attacks;

(d) whether any agreements were signed on the issue of trading through LoC; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED):
(a) to (e) The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan visited India from July 26-28, 2011 and held discussions with External Affairs Minister (EAM) in New Delhi on July 27, 2011. The Ministers reviewed the status of bilateral relations, expressed satisfaction on the holding of various Secretary level meetings and affirmed the importance of carrying forward the dialogue process with a view to resolving peacefully all outstanding issues. They agreed that terrorism poses a continuing threat to peace and security and reiterated the firm and undiluted commitment of the two countries to fight and eliminate this scourge in all its forms and manifestations and in this regard agreed on the need to strengthen cooperation on counter-terrorism to bring those responsible for terror crimes to justice. On the Mumbai terrorist attacks trial, underway in Pakistan, Foreign Minister of Pakistan requested India to have patience, trust and confidence in the process. According to her, Pakistan was not trying to abdicate responsibility and is committed to assist the process to bring the perpetrators of Mumbai attacks to justice. The Ministers decided to resume the work of the India-Pakistan Joint Commission. The Ministers agreed to convene separate expert level meetings on Nuclear and Conventional Confidence Building Measures (CBMs), in Islamabad in September 2011. As an outcome of the talks, several Cross-LoC trade and travel facilitation measures for Jammu & Kashmir were included in the Joint Statement issued after the talks. The Ministers agreed to the continuation of the dialogue process and to convene a series of Secretary level meetings on all issues, prior to the visit of EAM to Pakistan in the first half of 2012.

Upgradation of entry point with Myanmar

1909. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken steps to upgrade the entry point (Land Port) with Myanmar by discussing with Ministry of Home and Government of Myanmar; and

(b) if so, the other efforts taken to improve the trade, cultural and social relations with Myanmar in the process of dialogue with Democratic Government in Myanmar?