

(a) whether there was any meeting on 'security and co-operation in the heart of Asia' recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the agreements reached between the other countries?

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

(a) and (b) A Conference on Afghanistan titled "Istanbul Process on Regional Security and Cooperation for a secure and stable Afghanistan" was hosted by Turkey in Istanbul on November 2, 2011. The Outcome Document was adopted by the 'Heart of Asia' countries comprising of Afghanistan, China, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and the United Arab Emirates.

**Bank statement not to be accepted for student visa**

†1762. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Britain has released a list of Indian Banks whose transaction statements would not be accepted for student visa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that thousands of students studying in Britain would be affected by this;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in the interest of affected students?

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

(a) and (b) Yes. On 25 October 2011 the UK Border Agency issued a notification that it will not accept financial statements from certain Indian "financial institutions" for the purpose of student visas by mentioning that these "financial institutions do not satisfactorily verify financial statements."

(c) to (e) No. The 'effective date' of the notification is 24 November 2011.

**Meeting of OIC in New York**

1763. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) met in New York in September, 2011;

(b) whether the conference had passed two resolutions on Palestine and Kashmir; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED):  
(a) and (b) Yes.

(c) India is neither a member nor an observer in the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). Government of India has consistently maintained its stand that OIC has *no locus standi* in matters concerning India's internal affairs including Jammu & Kashmir and this has been taken up bilaterally with the member countries of the OIC.

**Denial of multiple visa to Indian scientists**

1764. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the US does not issue multiple visa to Indian scientists;

(b) if so, the reasons cited by the US Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government had taken up this issue with the US Government to resolve it; and

(d) if so, the response received by Government from the US authorities in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED):  
(a) to (d) The Government is aware of long-standing U.S. policy and procedures for issue of visas for foreign scientists working in specified areas of science and technology. The U.S. policy is not India-specific.

The Government has conveyed to the United States Government the importance of facilitating visits by scientists from both sides to realize the shared goal of expanding our bilateral cooperation in the areas of science and technology. The issue was also raised during the first meeting of the Joint Working Group on consular matters held on 25 July 2011 in Washington DC. The United States has