

(b) and (c) Evidence as reflected by the number of visas issued by Indian Missions in these countries does not indicate any remarkable drop in the number of tourists visiting India because of the Advisories.

(d) The Government strongly took up the matter of the Advisories with the Governments concerned. The Government will continue to monitor the situation and pursue the subject with these countries.

Pentagon Report on Arunachal and PoK

†361. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a report published by American defence establishment Pentagon depicts Arunachal Pradesh as a disputed region between India and China and Pak-occupied Kashmir (PoK) as part of Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether registering its objection with US, Government of India asked it to take corrective steps in this regard; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) The Annual Report by the United States Department of Defence on "Military and Security Developments Involving the People's Republic of China", submitted to the U.S. Congress in August 2011, carried a map of People's Republic of China, which showed parts of India as disputed territory between India and China. However, the map does not show Arunachal Pradesh as a disputed region. Further, the report depicts Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK) as part of Pakistan.

(b) and (c) The Government of India has on a number of occasions conveyed its objections to the U.S. Government that incorrect depiction of India on U.S. maps should be corrected.

Position of MFN status *vis-a-vis* Pakistan

362. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what exactly is the exact position of Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status *vis-a-vis* Pakistan and the actual assurance given by what actually has assured Pakistan about granting this status to India;

(b) the reason Government feels behind Pakistan's hesitation in granting MFN status to India; and

(c) the move Government is contemplating in this regard now?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) As per the Press Release of Government of Pakistan dated November 2, 2011, it is understood that "the Pakistan Cabinet gave Ministry of Commerce the mandate to take the process of normalisation forward, which would culminate in the observance of Most Favoured Nation (MFN) principle in its true spirit". The issue was discussed during the Commerce Secretary level talks between India and Pakistan held in New Delhi on November 14-16, 2011. The Agreed Minutes of these talks reflect Pakistan's position for observance of MFN as follows:

"The move to full normalisation of trade shall be sequenced. In the first stage, Pakistan will transition from the current Positive List approach to a Negative List. The consultation process on devising this Negative List is almost complete. A small Negative List shall be finalised and ratified by February 2012. Thereafter, all items other than those on the Negative List shall be freely exportable from India to Pakistan. In the second stage, the Negative List shall be phased out. The timing for this phasing out will be announced in February 2012 at the time the List is notified and it is expected that the phasing out will be completed before the end of 2012." With the entire phasing out of the Negative List, the transition process for full grant of MFN status by Pakistan to India shall be completed.

(b) and (c) In the Agreed Minutes of the Commerce Secretary level talks both countries expressed faith in the ongoing process for increase in bilateral trade. Institutional arrangements put in place for promoting bilateral trade and commerce would continue and the concerned working groups shall meet as required, to take forward the charted roadmaps.

Visit of President of Vietnam

363. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any agreement was signed for oil exploration by India in Vietnam during visit of Vietnamese President to New Delhi;
- (b) if so, the details and terms of the agreement; and
- (c) the steps taken in pursuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (c) An agreement on Cooperation in oil and gas sector was signed between ONGC Videsh Ltd. and Vietnam Oil and Gas Group (Petro Vietnam) during the visit of President of Vietnam to New Delhi on October 12, 2011. The intent of the Agreement is to establish the willingness of both parties for developing long term cooperation in oil and gas industry based upon the principles of equality and mutual benefit. The agreement is valid for