

- (b) the major decision taken in the Summit;
- (c) whether Indo-China border disputes were also figured in the summit;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons for not taking up the border issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) The Fourth BRICS Summit held in New Delhi on 29 March 2012 discussed regional and global issues of relevance including global economic situation, the contemporary political situation, reform of international institutions of global governance and sustainable development issues.

(b) A BRICS Delhi Declaration issued at the Summit captures the decisions reached by the Leaders which *inter-alia* include examination of the feasibility and viability, by BRICS Finance Ministers, of establishing a new Development Bank to mobilize resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in developing countries to supplement the existing efforts of multilateral and regional financial institutions and report the findings at the next Summit.

(c) to (e) The Prime Minister held bilateral talks with the President of the People's Republic of China Hu Jintao on 29 March 2012 on the sidelines of the Fourth BRICS Summit held in New Delhi. The two leaders discussed bilateral, regional and global issues. They inaugurated the Year of India-China Friendship and Cooperation and agreed to further strengthen bilateral dialogue mechanisms. The two sides also reiterated their commitment to maintain peace and tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China border areas, pending a final settlement of the Boundary Question.

#### **Assistance/AIR to Maldives**

3771. SHRI ANIL DESAI:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Minister of External Affairs and Minister of Defence during their visit to Maldives have promised assistance and aid; and
- (b) if so, the reasons for not fulfilling these promises?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) India and Maldives enjoy close ties of friendship

and cooperation. The momentum in the bilateral relationship has been kept up through regular high level exchanges. In this context, the External Affairs Minister had visited Maldives on a bilateral visit in July 2011 and the Raksha Mantri visited Maldives in August 2009 to hold discussions on bilateral cooperation with the Government of Maldives and to review the ongoing cooperation. India has traditionally extended assistance to Maldives in its developmental priorities, which we continue to undertake in close cooperation and consultation with the Government of Maldives.

**Talks with US and Canada over Visa Issue**

3772. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for Government not taking very strongly with US and Canadian Government for difficulties faced by our bona-fide citizens to obtain tourist visa of these countries despite the fact that both foreign Governments have declared that they want to strengthen bilateral relationship with India;

(b) the reasons for Government not taking up this matter with these countries and requests them to amend their visa policy for our honest citizens; and

(c) whether Ministry is aware that visa of MLAs and State Minister have been denied by these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (c) The Government is aware that not all Indian applicants for United States and Canada visas are successful in getting visas. While Government recognizes that visa policy and procedures are the prerogative of the host country, the Government, in its dialogue with the United States and Canada emphasizes that policies to facilitate movement of people, professionals and business travellers strengthens bilateral relations, including through people to people contacts and mutually beneficial economic ties.

**Maltreatment of Indian labourers abroad**

3773. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been cases of maltreatment of Indian labourers who are working abroad;