

International development against Iran

360. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR:

SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is monitoring current international developments against Iran as this may adversely impact on our nation as we are importing 70 percent of our crude requirement from Iran;

(b) whether our Foreign Policy towards Iran is influenced by US Government;

(c) whether Government is approaching Iranian Government for hiring their infrastructure development projects in exchange of import of crude oil as it would be benefited for both nations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) India is monitoring international developments in relation to Iran. While Iran is an important source for our crude imports, in 2010-11 our import of crude from Iran was less than 12% of our total crude imports.

(b) Our foreign policy is independent and is based on national interests. Our relations with a country are not based on our relations with other countries.

(c) and (d) Government is in discussions with the Iranian authorities to ensure uninterrupted supply of crude.

Norwegian Child's custody case

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

(a) the stance of the Ministry in Norwegian Child's Custody Case and the efforts that have been made by the Ministry to regain the custody of the children;

(b) the course of action the Ministry proposes to take in case visa of the unfortunate parents is not extended;

(c) the countries that have draconian child custody laws similar to that of Norway; and

(d) whether the Ministry, learning from the current experience, proposes to issue travel advisories to the families accompanied with small children, travelling to such countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) The Ministry has strongly taken up the matter with the Norwegian Government in Oslo and in India, including at Ministerial levels. The External Affairs Minister spoke to his Norwegian counterpart on January 23, 2012 to urge the early return of the children to India so that they can be brought up

in familiar surroundings under the loving care of their extended family as this would be in their best long-term interests. The External Affairs Minister sent Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs as his Special Envoy to Norway from February 26-29, 2012 to follow up on the matter. The Special Envoy met the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway; the Minister of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion; and other concerned officials. He urged them to resolve the case speedily by taking a humane approach and to send the children back to India so that they can be brought up in their own ethnic, religious, cultural, spiritual and linguistic milieu and social environment. The provisional date of hearing of the case in the Stavanger District Court has been fixed for March 23, 2012.

(b) The parents have had their visa extended.

(c) and (d) A large number of developed countries have laws similar to that Norway and the Ministry of External Affairs is considering suitable steps to address issues that may arise therefrom.

Misbehaviour with Indian diplomat in China

†362. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an incident of misbehaviour with Indian diplomat in China has occurred recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken so far by Government of India in protest to the said incident; and

(c) whether such incidents have occurred earlier also with diplomats along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (c) The incident occurred while an Indian diplomat was in Yiwu city of Zhejiang Province of China for consular consultation with two Indian traders there on 31st December 2011. Government has taken this issue seriously and has raised this matter with the Chinese side which has conveyed that China would ensure the safety and rights of diplomatic officers in China in accordance with the Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic and Consular Relations. No such incident has been reported in the recent past.

Attack on Indians Abroad

†363. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.