

In spite of the international opposition and ICAO Resolution, because of the continued reluctance of the EU to withdraw the Scheme, another follow up meeting was held in Moscow on 21-22nd February, 2012 in which 32 countries participated. The countries present, adopted another Declaration on the EU-ETS this time, in which, a basket of retaliatory measures are available to all Governments as counter measures. Depending upon EU's response to the Moscow Declaration, appropriate retaliatory measures would be undertaken by all signatories to the Declaration including India and also by other nations joining.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. EU's possible penalties range from fines to stoppage of operations.

(d) The Government at all levels and through the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the Ministry of Civil Aviation have already written to the EU separately informing India's opposition to the unilateral measure of the EU-ETS which is contrary to several international laws and Conventions including the Chicago Convention and UNFCCC.

Direct flights for Haj from Srinagar

967. SHRI G. N. RATANPURI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether steps have been taken to resume direct Haj flights from Srinagar;
- (b) whether the only international flight from Srinagar to Dubai was discontinued; and
- (c) by when should we expect flights to Jeddah, Dubai and other foreign destinations from Srinagar?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) Government is exploring the possibility of introducing direct Haj flight from Srinagar.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Air India currently offers same day connectivity between Srinagar and Jeddah, Dubai & other foreign destinations.

Kailash Mansarovar Pilgrimage

968. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is organizing pilgrimage to Kailash-Mansarovar between May and September, 2012;

- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) the number of batches that are likely to be sent to Kailash-Mansarovar this year with fees being charged from each person; and
- (d) the details of security that would be provided to the pilgrims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHMED) : (a) to (c) Ministry of External Affairs is organizing the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra from 28 May to 25 September 2012 in coordination with Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam Ltd. (KMVN) and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) comprising of 16 batches of upto 60 persons per batch. Each Yatri will pay Rs. 27,000 to KMVN and USD 750 to the Chinese side.

(d) the ITBP provides security cover to the yattris on the Indian side of the route. On the Chinese side of the route the ITBP establishes a wireless link with the Chinese authorities concerned to keep track of various batches performing the Yatra and share information on their movement and whereabouts. Each Liaison Officer, appointed to manage the yattris, is provided with a satellite phone, enabling him/her to stay in touch with ITBP / KMVN / GOI, and to seek assistance in case of any emergency.

Urge for Indo-Pak Talks by Pakistan Foreign Minister

969. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Pakistan Minister for Foreign Affairs called for an "uninterrupted and uninterruptible" dialogue between India and Pakistan during her visit to New Delhi in July 2011 and reiterated the same in her speech to the United Nations General Assembly in September; and

(b) if so, the response of the Government of India?

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

(b) India is committed to resolving all outstanding issues with Pakistan through dialogue in the interest of peace and prosperity of our people. It is Government's consistently expressed position that it is necessary to have an environment free of terror or threat of terror if relations between India and Pakistan are to move forward concretely and meaningfully.