

- (e) if so, the view of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (e) Government has from time to time come across reports on the problems faced by members of the minority communities in Pakistan, including the reports on abduction of Hindu traders from Baluchistan and the televised conversion of a Hindu young man in Pakistan to Islam. Incidents of persecution and intimidation of the Hindus have also been reported. It is the responsibility of the Government of Pakistan to discharge its obligations towards its citizens, including those from the minority community. However, based on reports of persecution of minority groups in Pakistan, Government had in the past taken up the matter with the Government of Pakistan. The Government of Pakistan stated that it was fully cognizant of the situation and looked after the welfare of all its citizens, particularly the minority community.

Recently, India's serious concerns on the matter of abduction, forced conversion and marriage of Hindu girls against their will to Muslim men in Pakistan have been conveyed to Pakistan side. A demarche was made with Pakistan on May 8, 2012 in this regard. It was conveyed that it is our expectation that the Government of Pakistan will look after the well being of its minority communities and discharge its responsibility in this regard. Pakistan side responded that the Government of Pakistan is seized of the matter and the Supreme Court of Pakistan has taken up the issue and that the Government of Pakistan provides full protection to all minorities.

Military/financial support to Pakistan

637. SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the increasing military/financial support extended to Pakistan by various countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government sees any possibility of misusing this support, extended for fighting terrorism, against India;
- (d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;
- (e) whether Government has raised this apprehension with any of the countries;
- (f) if so, their response in this regard; and
- (g) the reaction of Government on the suspension/reduction of military aids to Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (g) Government is aware that various countries have extended military/financial support to Pakistan.

Government has consistently drawn the attention of the concerned countries to the need for proper bench marks and accountability to prevent the diversion of assistance provided to Pakistan for use against India. Government has also stressed the need for constant vigilance as also close monitoring of such assistance being provided.

Government remains fully vigilant and takes all necessary steps to safeguard India's security and national interests.

Signing of Passport Seva Project

638. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) when was the Passport Seva Project signed by the contracting parties;
- (b) the names of the contracting parties;
- (c) the details of the main clauses in the contract; and
- (d) the exact role played by the service provider under the contract?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) The Master Service Agreement (MSA) for the Passport Seva Project was signed on 13th October, 2008 between the Ministry of External Affairs and M/s Tata Consultancy Services.

(c) The main clauses of the MSA include scope of contract delineating the responsibilities of the Service Provider (SP), governance schedule; security and information technology safety; confidentiality of public records and passport related data and Project data; audit, access and reporting during Project Implementation Phase and the Operation and Management Phase; intellectual property rights on Bespoke Software, Application, Source Code etc.; dispute resolution and arbitration; change control schedule governing any change in the provisions of MSA; exit management schedule/plan applicable on expiry or termination of MSA; Operation and Management Service Level Agreements (SLAs); Implementation Schedule indicating timelines; and terms of payment indicating cost of Passport Seva Application Software, System Software, Data Centre and Data Recovery Centre and service charge as per volume and type of passport services subject to applicable SLAs.

(d) Under the contractual obligations, the role and responsibilities of Service Provider include provision/setting up of (i) all hardware, software, networking and personal computers of the entire Passport system, (ii) physical infrastructure for all PSKs as determined by the Ministry in terms of RFP, including interiors thereof, (iii) Data Centre (DC), Disaster Recovery Centre (DRC) and Central Passport Printing Facility (CPPF), (iv) maintenance and operations of all the aforesaid, (v) staff for all private