

the two countries. Presently, the border management on India Pakistan border is being carried out on the basis of informal conventions evolved between the Border Security Force (BSF) and Pakistan Rangers over the years.

The matter has been taken up by BSF with Pakistan Rangers during meetings at various levels. The point also featured during the Quarterly Meeting held on 16 November, 2011, wherein it was reiterated by the Pakistan side that this construction has been undertaken to extend the existing platform and immigration office for better facilities to passengers.

Simplification of visa by India and Pakistan

†1257. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that India and Pakistan have framed any policy to simplify the visa rules;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) by when this new policy would be implemented; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (d) In pursuance of the decision taken during the India-Pakistan Home/Interior Secretary level talks held at New Delhi on 28-29 March, 2011, the second meeting of the Joint Working Group was held at New Delhi on October 13-14, 2011, to examine the modalities for streamlining the visa procedures and to finalize the draft of the new Bilateral Visa Agreement with a view to easing travel for the nationals of either country desiring to visit the other. The two sides finalized the draft text of the Bilateral Visa Agreement. In the Home/Interior Secretary level talks held in Islamabad on 24-25 May, 2012, both sides welcomed the finalization of the Visa Agreement and agreed to sign it at an early date. The Pakistan side informed that some internal approvals were under process and the Agreement will be signed once they are in place.

Indian soldiers in Pakistani jails

†1258. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.