

three others in a Gurudwara at Oak Creek, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, United States at 10.15 AM (local time) on 5 August, 2012. The dead included four Indian and two American citizens. The gunman was later killed reportedly through a combination of police firing and self inflicted wounds.

(c) and (d) The Government conveyed its concerns to the U.S. Government about the shooting and the general security of the Indian community in the United States through the diplomatic channels immediately after the incident. Further, External Affairs Minister spoke on telephone to US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on 6 August, 2012 to convey the country's shock at this tragic incident, and to request the US Government to take all steps to ensure the security of the Indian community in the United States and their places of worship. Prime Minister also conveyed the same to US President Obama, when latter called him on 8 August, 2012.

President Obama in his public statement expressed sorrow over the incident, conveyed his condolence for the victims, highlighted the rich contribution of the Sikh community to the United States and stated that all support would be provided for the investigations into the shooting. Further, President Obama issued a proclamation ordering the US flag to be flown at half-staff from 6 August until sunset, 10 August, 2012, as a mark of respect for the victims of the Gurudwara attack. The U.S. Attorney General visited Oak Tree and met the families of the victims. The Federal Bureau of Investigation has also joined the investigation into the incident.

#### **Anti-India sentiments in neighbouring countries**

1264. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of anti-India sentiments prevailing in Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the details thereof, country-wise;

(c) the organizations/persons responsible for fanning anti-India sentiments in these countries; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to strengthen the relations with these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) and (b) India enjoys close, cordial and friendly relations with Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Nepal and Myanmar with whom it shares historic, civilisational and cultural links. India's relations with these countries is based on equality, mutuality of benefit and respect for each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

(c) and (d) India has maintained the tradition of regular high level exchange of visits and close people-to-people contacts with our neighbouring countries. Issues of mutual concern are regularly discussed with these countries in various institutional mechanisms. India is assisting neighbouring countries in their socio-economic development in the areas of infrastructure, health, education, power, information & technology, rural and community development. Initiatives have been undertaken to boost bilateral trade, investment and tourism profile with these countries.

**Tourist hub by China near Indo-China border**

1265. DR. NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item "China planning tourist hub near border" published in the Media on 24 June, 2012 stating that China is building a "golden" tourist complex in Nyingchi prefecture in Tibet, close to the disputed areas on the Indo-China border;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto and the steps taken in this regard; and

(c) to what extent this move may pose threat to the integrity of India and sour the relation of the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (c) Government has seen the media report. Government is aware that China is developing the infrastructure in the border regions opposite India in Tibet and Xinjiang Autonomous Regions. This includes the Qinghai-Tibet Railway line, with proposed extension upto Xigaze and Nyingchi, and development of road and airport facilities. Government is giving careful and special attention to the development of infrastructure in the border areas opposite China, in order to meet our strategic and security requirements and also to facilitate the economic