

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) and (b) Yes. Visa processes are being streamlined for facilitating easy travel for business and other purposes.

(c) to (e) There were a number of attacks on Indians/Indian students in Australia a couple of years ago. These incidents were taken up strongly with the Australian authorities and as a result of concerted efforts by the Indian government and the Federal and State Governments in Australia, the number of incidents has come down sharply. The measures put in place by local authorities include increased security and reviews of the international education system, student visa regulations and migration system.

Problems in getting visitor visa to USA

2181. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA :

SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons Government is not concerned about fact that our honest, particularly younger people are not getting visitor's visa of USA and their visa applications are rejected without proper reasons, keeping in view that US top leadership has already stated that they want to increase bilateral leadership with India and despite the fact that visa is their sovereign right;

(b) the details thereof;

(c) whether our envoy at Washington received any communication within last one year in this regard;

(d) if so, the action taken by our envoy on this important matter; and

(e) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) to (e) The Government is aware that not all Indian applicants for United States visas are successful in obtaining visas. While Government recognizes that visa policies and procedures are the prerogative of the host country, the Government, in its dialogue with the United States, emphasizes that policies to facilitate movement of people, professionals and business travellers strengthens bilateral relations, including through people to people contacts and mutually beneficial economic ties. To address such issues and to respond to representations being received including by our Embassy in Washington, from Indian citizens and businesses. Government has established an

annual Consular Dialogue with the United States. All issues pertaining to consular matters are discussed in this forum.

China issuing visa for Arunachal Pradesh and Siachin area

2182. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) it is a fact that China is issuing visa for Tabang area of Arunachal Pradesh and Siachin area of India which are integral part of India; and

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

America purchasing debris of Ramsetu

†2183. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that America was willing to purchase the debris of Ramsetu and an agreement to this effect was also reached upon between USA and India;

(b) if so, the details of the agreement; and

(c) whether this agreement is still in force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) No.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Capabilities of Afghan security forces

2184. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is committed to building the capabilities of Afghan security forces;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.