

19. The two Ministers expressed hope that the JWG on Conservation of Royal Bengal Tigers at the Sundarbans would be meeting soon to explore the possibilities of mutual cooperation in this sector.
20. The Ministers expressed satisfaction that the JWG on Fisheries would be meeting very soon and hoped that both the sides would be able to agree on ways and means for optimal utilization of the fishing resources to the benefit of the two peoples. The Ministers further expressed hope that the JWG on Agriculture would also be meeting soon to intensify bilateral cooperation in the field of agriculture.
21. Both sides agreed to enhance telecommunication connectivity between the two countries.
22. The two sides signed the following documents:
 - (a) MoU for Establishment of the Bangladesh-India Foundation;
 - (b) MoU on Establishment of Akhaura-Agartala Rail link; and
 - (c) Protocol amending the Convention for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income.
23. The External Affairs Minister will call on the Hon'ble Prime Minister and will also meet the Hon'ble Minister for Home Affairs and Hon'ble Minister for Water Resources of Bangladesh during his visit to Dhaka.
24. Both sides agreed to hold the next meeting of the Joint Consultative Commission in New Delhi at a mutually convenient date to be decided through diplomatic channels.

Dhaka, 16 February, 2013

Proposal for peace talks with Pakistan

†1124. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received proposal from Pakistan to continue the process of peace talks;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (c) whether Government has laid any condition to continue the process of peace talks in the wake of Pakistan's proposal;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) Pakistan's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (e) In the context of the recent incidents along the Line of Control Pakistan has been making several suggestions including for investigation of the incidents along the LoC by a third party, and for bilateral talks may be at the Foreign Minister level. Government is of the view that presently practical steps are needed to strengthen the sanctity of the Line of Control for which the well established mechanism of contacts between the Director Generals of Military Operations should be fully utilized.

It is only through a strict adherence to the provisions of the Shimla Agreement including respect of the sanctity of the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir that both sides will be able to work towards a relationship of durable peace, friendship and cooperation.

Setting up of PSKs in Gujarat

1125. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA:

SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the action taken by the Ministry to set up Passport Seva Kendra (PSK) in all districts of Gujarat State?
- (b) whether the Ministry approached the State Government of Gujarat in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the action taken by Government on the fact that, due to online submission of passport application, many times applicants are not getting appointment for submission of documents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (c) Under the Passport Seva Project (PSP), 5 (five)