

The two leaders welcomed the operationalization of the India-Russia Joint Science and Technology Centres in India and Russia, which can assist the development and commercialization of promising technologies, including in nano-technology, bio-medicine and super-computing.

As regards economic cooperation, it was acknowledged that the bilateral trade had grown in 2012; however, there is still untapped potential in areas such as pharmaceuticals, fertilizers, mining, steel, information technology, civil aviation, telecommunications, infrastructure, food processing, innovation and services, which both sides need to exploit.

In addition, at the Summit, a Joint Statement titled "Partnership for mutual benefit and a better world" was adopted by both sides. Ten documents were also signed during the visit, including an MoU on Science Technology and Innovation; an MoU to promote direct investments; contracts for delivery of 71 Mi-17V-5 helicopters and 42 technological kits for SU-30MKI aircraft licensed production ; an MoU between BSNL/MTNL and NIS, GLONASS for conducting a pilot project; as well as a few private sector contracts.

(b) and (c) Yes. The Government has raised the issue with the Russian leadership at various bilateral fora and high-level meetings. The Russian side is aware of India's concerns and these are subject of ongoing discussions.

ASEAN Summit in Delhi

1894. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the recently held Association of South East Asian (ASEAN) meeting in New Delhi;

(b) whether it is a fact that the problems created by China were also discussed; and

(c) if so, the remedial measures finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) The ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit under the theme '*ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace and Shared Prosperity*' was held in New Delhi on December 20- 21, 2012 to commemorate 20 years of dialogue relations and

10 years of Summit level partnership with ASEAN. It was attended by Heads of State/Heads of Government from 9 ASEAN Member States, Vice-President of the Philippines and Secretary General of ASEAN. A Vision Statement was adopted at the Commemorative Summit which declared that the ASEAN-India Partnership stands elevated to a strategic partnership and welcomed the successful conclusion of the negotiation on ASEAN-India Trade in Services and Investment Agreements.

- (b) No.
- (c) Does not arise.

Releasing of fishermen by Pakistan

†1895. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government of Pakistan has decided to release all the Indian fishermen who are in its custody;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government of Pakistan has taken this decision to remove mutual discord;
- (d) whether Government of India has initiated any negotiation with Government of Pakistan in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (c) Government has seen recent media reports about announcement by Pakistan to release all Indian fishermen, who are in its custody. However no formal communication has been received from Government of Pakistan in this regard.

(d) and (e) Government consistently takes up the issue concerning the release of all Indian fishermen and their boats in Pakistani custody with the Government of Pakistan at all appropriate levels. The matter was taken up at the Foreign Secretary level talks in February, 2010, June, 2010, June, 2011 and July, 2012; at the Home/

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.