

Representation for tracing missing women in Kuwait

1901. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received a representation from the Forum on Social and Human Rights to trace a missing woman from Andhra Pradesh in Kuwait;
- (b) the details of this representation;
- (c) the steps taken to trace the person;
- (d) whether any additional information has been sought from the Forum on Social and Human Rights; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) Yes.

(b) The representation seeks whereabouts of Smt. Penke Tanukulamma in Kuwait.

(c) The sponsor of Smt. Tanukulamma had lodged a complaint in a local police station claiming that Smt. Penke Tanukulamma has absconded. She is not detained at any Police station/detention centre/jail. Our embassy in Kuwait has taken up the matter with the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry for locating Smt. Tanukulamma and to confirm her welfare in Kuwait. We continue to pursue the matter.

(d) and (e) Forum on Social and Human Rights was also contacted to provide contact details of any friends/relatives of Smt. Tanukulamma in Kuwait. The Forum has provided contact number of one Smt. Kumari. She was contacted by our Embassy in Kuwait; however, she could not provide any information on the whereabouts of Smt. Penke Tanukulamma in Kuwait.

Permission to Polisario to open embassy in Delhi

1902. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Polisario have not been accorded permission to reopen the Western Sahara Embassy in Delhi which was closed in or around 1998; and

- (b) if so, the reasons for not according the approval to reopen the Mission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) It was conveyed to the Mission of SADR at New Delhi in June, 2000, that they could continue as a Polisario Office if they so desired without diplomatic status and amenities. The then SADR Charge d' Affairs completely closed down his office, after receiving instructions from his concerned authorities.

Multiple entry visa between India and Pakistan

1903. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India and Pakistan are working on a mechanism to issue multiple entry visa for businessmen as part of reducing non-traffic barriers for greater trade;

- (b) if so, whether this move is easing movement between businessmen of the two countries; and

- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (c) The new Visa Agreement which was signed on September 8, 2012 has been operationalized. To address the concerns of the business community in both countries a separate category of 'Business Visa' has been introduced under the new Agreement. This visa fulfills a long pending demand of the business communities of both countries, which was being projected as one of the non-tariff barriers in India-Pakistan bilateral trade. A Business Visa will be issued to bona-fide businessmen who intend to travel for business purposes between India and Pakistan and who fall in two categories:

- (i) Businessmen with income of Pak Rs. half million or equivalent per annum, or annual turnover/gross sale of Pak Rs. three million or equivalent will be given a one year Business Visa with five places, for upto four entries.
- (ii) Businessmen with an income of at least Pak Rs. five million or equivalent per annum or turnover of Pak Rs. 30 million or equivalent per annum will be given one year multiple entry visas, for upto ten places, with exemption from police reporting.