

Island. However, writ petitions have been filed on the issue of Katchatheevu Island in various courts.

Government attaches the highest importance to the safety, security and welfare of Indian fishermen. As soon as the reports of apprehension of Indian fishermen are received, Government, through diplomatic channels, immediately takes up with the Government of Sri Lanka the issue of their expeditious release and repatriation. The matter has also been taken up during bilateral meetings at various levels including during the meeting between PM and the President of Sri Lanka in New Delhi on 27 May and, recently, between EAM and the Sri Lankan External Affairs Minister on 11 July 2014 in New Delhi. Government has repeatedly emphasized upon the need to ensure humane treatment and that there should be no resort to violence against fishermen under any circumstances. Government, as a result of its continuous efforts has secured the release of all 676 Indian fishermen arrested in 2013 and 536 Indian fishermen arrested till 8 August 2014 from the custody of Sri Lanka. As on 8 August 2014, there are 94 Indian fishermen alongwith 63 Indian fishing vessels under the custody of Sri Lankan authorities on charges of fishery related violations.

#### **Dialogue during BRICS Summit**

‡3873. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the countries that Indian Prime Minister had dialogue with their heads of States/heads of Governments during the summit of the BRICS countries;
- (b) the terms of reference of the dialogue along with the results thereof; and
- (c) whether the issue with regard to preventing repeated cross-border incursion by China into Indian territory was figured during the dialogue with China, and if so, the response of China thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH]: (a) to (c) Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi had bilateral meetings with the other BRICS Leaders-Presidents of Brazil, China, Russia and South Africa-as well as with the Presidents of Guyana, Peru and Suriname on the margins of the 6th BRICS Summit in Brazil in July 2014.

Hon'ble Prime Minister met Brazilian President Dilma Rouseff at Presidential Palace in Brasilia on 16 July 2014. The entire gamut of bilateral issues was discussed and three MoUs were signed between India and Brazil in the areas of Environment,

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‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Establishment of a Consultation Mechanism on Consular and Mobility Issues and Implementing Arrangement establishing Cooperation in Augmentation of a Brazilian Earth Station for Receiving and Processing Data from Indian Remote Sensing Satellites.

Hon'ble Prime Minister met Chinese President Xi Jinping in Fortaleza, Brazil on 14 July 2014. The meeting, the first between the two leaders, lasted approximately 80 minutes. The discussion centered on all aspects of the bilateral agenda as well as on regional and global issues. Hon'ble Prime Minister stressed the importance of strengthening mutual trust and confidence, maintaining peace and tranquility on the border and respecting each other's interests and concerns, including in our shared neighbourhood, for realizing the full potential of our relationship. President Xi Jinping shared our views on creating the right conditions and building a higher degree of engagement and familiarity between the two countries to harness the true potential of their relationship.

Hon'ble Prime Minister met Russian President Vladimir Putin in Fortaleza, Brazil, on 15 July 2014. Both the leaders expressed their commitment to strengthen and deepen bilateral political, economic, defence and international cooperation, as also to explore new areas and new forms of cooperation for the future. Both sides agreed to work towards concrete outcomes for the Annual Summit later in the year, when President Putin will visit India.

Hon'ble Prime Minister had a bilateral meeting with South African President Jacob Zuma in Brasilia on 16 July 2014. During the meeting the two Leaders resolved to work together to deepen bilateral cooperation and international partnership. Hon'ble Prime Minister invited South Africa to be part of planned celebration in January 2015 of hundred years of Mahatma Gandhi's return to India from South Africa.

Intensification of bilateral relations especially trade and investments were discussed during Hon'ble Prime Minister's meeting with President of Suriname in Brasilia on 16 July 2014.

Further strengthening of bilateral relations between India and Guyana including extension of a Line of Credit by India were discussed by Hon'ble Prime Minister during his meeting with President of Guyana in Brasilia on 16 July 2014.

It was agreed between Hon'ble Prime Minister and President of Peru to increase trade and enhance commercial ties between the two countries during their meeting in Brasilia on 16 July 2014. The two Leaders also exchanged views on application of technology to agriculture, water resource management and S&T.