

**Delay in Mumbai terror attack case**

3874. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has expressed its unhappiness over the prolonged delay of trial in Pakistan in Mumbai terror attack case, if so, the response received by Government from Pakistan; and

(b) whether Pakistan has also expressed concern over the delay in the Samjhauta Express bombing case in which 68 people were killed, most of them Pakistanis, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH]: (a) and (b) Government has repeatedly conveyed its concerns to the Pakistan leadership, including during the recent meeting of Prime Minister with the Prime Minister of Pakistan on May 27, 2014 in New Delhi, that despite assurances received at the highest levels in Pakistan the ongoing trial in Pakistan against some of the accused persons involved in the Mumbai terror attacks has been progressing at a slow pace. The need to expeditiously bring all those persons responsible for this heinous crime to justice has also been repeatedly underlined.

Pakistan has been raising the issue of India's investigation into the 2007 Samjhauta Express bomb blast case where both Indian and Pakistani citizens were killed causing huge loss of public property. Pakistan invariably raises the issue when the issue of delay in the Mumbai attack case is raised with them.

**Indian delegation visit to Nepal**

3875. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of Indian delegation visit to Nepal; and

(b) the proposals and agreements signed in the bilateral talk, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH]: (a) and (b) External Affairs Minister led an inter-ministerial delegation on an official visit to Nepal from 25-27 July, 2014 at the invitation of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Government of Nepal. During her stay in Kathmandu, she paid courtesy calls on The Rt. Hon'ble Dr. Ram Baran Yadav, President of Nepal, The Rt. Hon'ble Mr. Sushil Koirala, Prime Minister and The Rt. Hon'ble Mr.

Subash Chandra Nembang, Speaker of the Legislature-Parliament. She also met with the Leader of Opposition in the Legislature-Parliament The Hon. Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' and leaders of other political parties. The two Foreign Ministers also co-chaired the third meeting of the India-Nepal Joint Commission. The Joint Commission reviewed a range of issues including political and security issues, economic cooperation and infrastructure, trade and transit, power and water resources, culture, education and media. Both sides expressed happiness at the reactivation of the Joint Commission after a gap of 23 years. Both sides also signed an MOU on the installation of 2,700 shallow tube-wells in the Terai region.

#### **Recruitment of contract labour**

3876. SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the method adopted in selecting and recruiting the contract labour in Indian Embassies and other diplomatic missions all across the globe;
- (b) the benefits and monthly pay available to such contract labourers and whether there are any service period restrictions to get such benefits from Indian Missions;
- (c) whether the Ministry came to know of any inhuman handlings of such contract employees in Indian Diplomatic Mission located at Jeddah, Saudi Arabia and the correctional steps taken thereafter; and
- (d) whether they are eligible for the stipulations ensured for the workers being engaged by foreign private companies or persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH] : (a) Indian Missions/Posts abroad do not engage "Contract Labour". However, locally recruited staff to serve as receptionists; interpreters, local clerks, chauffeurs and messengers are employed in all Indian diplomatic Missions/Posts around the world. Recruitment of these local employees is governed by relevant rules and regulations approved by the Ministry. In accordance with these rules, recruitment is carried out through advertisement of vacancies in local newspapers and on the basis of tests/interview of the applicants by the concerned Mission/Post.

- (b) Such locally recruited employees are paid salary and allowances as applicable to different levels of employees in accordance with the approval of the Ministry of External Affairs. The Indian Missions/Posts make contribution towards social security and medical insurance wherever such contributions are mandated by local laws. Terminal gratuity is paid to a local employee who has put in a minimum of ten years of service,