

Trade and Industry Bodies/Associations are encouraged to organize trade shows and Business-to-Business meetings in the ASEAN countries in order to promote trade.

**Special schemes for Indian citizens who returned from Iraq**

1708. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has noticed about the difficulties faced by the Indians in Iraq and the citizens who came back from Iraq; and

(b) if so, whether Government is planning for any special scheme to help them to get employment inside India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India is not planning any special scheme as the State Governments engage in the task of providing necessary assistance, if required, to such returnees.

**Status of Indo-Pak relation**

1709. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the latest status of the Indo-Pak relations;

(b) whether there has been improvement in bilateral relations with Pakistan; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Indian Government has taken up the issue of state-sponsored terrorism with Pakistan so that it stops creating troubles on our borders in future, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) to (c) India is committed to resolve all outstanding issues with Pakistan, through a peaceful bilateral dialogue in an environment free from violence and terror.

Prime Minister of Pakistan Nawaz Sharif visited India at the invitation of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi from May 26-27, 2014 to attend the swearing-in ceremony of the new Indian Government on May 26, 2014. During the meeting with Pakistan PM Nawaz Sharif on 27 May 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi underlined India's concerns relating to terrorism. It was conveyed that Pakistan must abide by its commitment to

prevent its territory and territory under its control from being used for terrorism against India. PM conveyed expectations that necessary steps will be taken in the Mumbai terror attack trial underway in Pakistan to ensure speedy progress of the case and the conviction of those responsible.

Both the Prime Ministers also agreed that the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan will remain in touch and explore ways to move forward.

### **UN Security Council reforms**

1710. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's representative to the UN emphasized recently in the international meeting, G4 bloc of Brazil, Germany, India and Japan, the much needed UN Security Council reforms, to make it more effective and representative; if so, the details thereof;

(b) the response that was made by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) permanent members; and

(c) the overall progress made towards embarking upon ambitious post-2015 development agenda for the UNSC, including a permanent seat for India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) India actively continues its efforts for expansion of the UN Security Council and becoming a permanent member. To this end, India remains engaged bilaterally with other UN member states as well as within the G-4 (India, Brazil, Germany and Japan). In inter-governmental negotiations in the United Nations General Assembly, India, along with like-minded countries, has called for expansion of the Security Council in both permanent and non-permanent categories. So far, ten rounds of inter-governmental negotiations have taken place. In these meetings, a large number of the Member States have expressed their preference for a reform model based on expansion in both the permanent and non-permanent categories of membership.

(b) In so far as the permanent members of the UNSC are concerned, all of them have expressed themselves in favour of reform of the UN Security Council in various fora.

(c) The inter-governmental negotiations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda are expected to commence at the 69th Session of the UN General Assembly.