

(c) whether Government has lodged its protest with China regarding stapled visa; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and China's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. (RETD.) V.K. SINGH]: (a) to (d) In recent months, no instances of stapled visas being issued to residents of the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir have been brought to the notice of Government. Government's position that there should be no discrimination against visa applicants of Indian nationality on grounds of domicile and ethnicity has been clearly conveyed to the Chinese Government on several occasions including at the highest level.

#### **Talks with China**

†519. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times talks were held between China and India and the main points of the talks;

(b) whether China is serious about improving its relations with India;

(c) if so, the manner in which this would be done; and

(d) if not, the details of India's foreign policy towards China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. (RETD.) V.K. SINGH]: (a) to (d) There are regular meetings between India and China at various levels, including at the highest level. Soon after the new Government took office, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi visited India as the Special Envoy of the Chinese President and held extensive talks with External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj. The two Foreign Ministers have subsequently met on the sidelines of the ASEAN Regional Forum in Nay Pyi Taw and UN General Assembly in New York in August and September 2014 respectively.

At the invitation of the Vice, President of China, the Hon'ble Vice-President of India Shri M. Hamid Ansari, paid an official visit to China from June 26 to 30, 2014. The Vice, President held bilateral discussions at Beijing on June 30, 2014 with his counterpart, Vice, President Li Yuanchao of China and called on President Xi Jinping.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

President Xi Jinping visited India from 17-19 September, 2014. During the visit he met with President Pranab Mukherjee and held substantive discussions with the Prime Minister. Prime Minister Modi had earlier met with President Xi Jinping on 14 July, 2014 in Brazil on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit. Prime Minister Modi also met with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang in Nay Pyi Taw on 13 November, 2014 on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit.

During these meetings entire gamut of bilateral, regional and global issues are discussed. Both sides have emphasized several times their policy of attaching priority to the development of good-neighbourly and friendly bilateral relations and are committed to resolving bilateral issues through dialogue and peaceful negotiations and in a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable manner.

#### **Fake passport and visa**

520. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the number of fake passports and visas are on a rise in the country;
- (b) if so, the number of such rackets that have been identified in the last one year; and
- (c) the remedial measures taken to make our passport and visa system foolproof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. (RETD.) V.K. SINGH]: (a) and (b) No. Very few cases of fake passports and visas have come to the notice of the Government in recent past. The involvement of any racket has not been identified in the last one year.

(c) A number of measures are already in place to make the passport and visa system fool proof. These measures include:

- (i) Issuance of machine-readable passports and visas with improved security features and in compliance with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) guidelines issued from time to time;
- (ii) Changing the design of Indian Passports with reverse stitching and non-tearable papers to make it more secure;
- (iii) Installation of Passport Reading Machines (PRMs) and Questionable