

Understanding on the Establishment of Nalanda University, which had come into force on 10th October, 2013. This would enable Sri Lanka and its institutions to collaborate in the development of Nalanda University as an international centre of academic excellence.

(b) and (c) The MoU on the establishment of Nalanda University is an inter-governmental agreement. It does not include reference to bilateral reciprocal arrangements with Sri Lanka for exchange of students.

Boundary dispute along Indo-Bangladesh border in Tripura

1650. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the dispute on the Indo-Bangladesh border in the State of Tripura has been resolved amicably, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to avert such disputes in the future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH) : (a) and (b) The “Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Bangladesh Concerning the Demarcation of the Land Boundary Between India and Bangladesh and Related Matters” (LBA) was signed with Bangladesh in 1974 and the Protocol to the LBA was signed in September 2011. It settled the long outstanding land boundary issues related to undemarcated segment of 6.1 Kms; territories in adverse possession; and exchange of enclaves. This includes the un-demarcated segment in Tripura and also the Adverse Possession areas in Tripura. With the implementation of the 1974 Agreement and its 2011 Protocol, the India-Bangladesh land boundary will be settled permanently.

The Constitution (119th Amendment) Bill for implementing the India-Bangladesh LBA and the 2011 Protocol was introduced in Rajya Sabha in December 2013. The Bill was examined by the Standing Committee on External Affairs which tabled its report in the Parliament on December 01, 2014.

Issue of Sri Lankan refugees

1651. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken up the issue of Sri Lankan refugees who had taken shelter in India, with the new Government of Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and the response of the Sri Lankan Government thereon; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to rehabilitate the Sri Lankan Tamils with full honour and dignity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH) : (a) to (c) The issue of voluntary repatriation of Sri Lankan Tamil Refugees in India was raised by External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka Mr. Mangala Samaraweera during his visit to India from 17-19 January, 2015. It was agreed to start bilateral consultation process on this issue by end January. A meeting between the two sides was held on 30 January, 2015.

Countries visited by Prime Minister

†1652. DR. SANJAY SINH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of foreign visits made by the Prime Minister and the Minister of External Affairs during last ten months to till date;

(b) the details of discussions held abroad and the results thereof; and

(c) the further steps being taken by Government to strengthen the relations with these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH) : (a) to (c) Information in respect of visits by the Prime Minister and the Minister of External Affairs have been compiled and placed in the Statement (*See below*).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.