

Level Media Forum on February 1, proposed that the two countries should follow (i) action oriented approach (ii) broad base bilateral engagement (iii) convergence of common regional and global interests (iv) develop new areas of cooperation (v) expand strategic communication (vi) fulfill common aspirations to usher “Asian Century”.

India and China have common interests on several multilateral issues of global importance like climate change, WTO, reform of the international financial institutions etc. This is reflected in close cooperation and coordination between the two sides within the BRICS, G-20 and other fora. Both sides have agreed to maintain the momentum of high-level exchanges and deepen cooperation with a determination to add new content and substance to the relationship.

Forced conversion of Indian prisoners abroad

†2454. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of forced conversions of Indian prisoners in foreign jails have come to light, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government is investigating those cases and objections have been lodged with concerned Governments of foreign countries in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) No such cases have come to the notice of the government.

(b) Does not arise.

Passport for people from Nagaland and Jammu and Kashmir

2455. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Nagaland and Jammu and Kashmir born Indian citizens can not apply for passport under Tatkal category;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) to (c) Indian citizens born in Nagaland and Jammu and Kashmir are generally not covered for passport application under Tatkaal category as passports are issued in these States on the basis of prior police

verification. However, Tatkaal applications are accepted for certain categories of individuals, such as:

- (i) minor children up to the age of 10 years whose either parent holds a valid passport;
- (ii) those who hold/held Diplomatic/Official Passports;
- (iii) children on inter-country adoption;
- (iv) Jammu and Kashmir migrants for re-issue of passports;
- (v) applicants from non-Jammu and Kashmir subjects born in Jammu and Kashmir but resident outside Jammu and Kashmir, viz. children of Government employees born in Jammu and Kashmir during their posting in Jammu and Kashmir, etc.

Besides, to avoid inconvenience to passport applicants hailing from Nagaland and Jammu and Kashmir, Short-Validity Passports are issued pending additional verification in urgent cases.

Talks on fishermen issue with Sri Lanka

2456. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Minister had a talk regarding fishermen issue with Sri Lankan counterpart during his visit to India, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the two Governments would facilitate resumption of talks between fishermen associations in the issue, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) and (b) The External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj had raised the fishermen issue with the Sri Lankan Foreign Affairs Minister Mr. Mangala Samaraweera during his visit to India from 17–19 January 2015. She had emphasized during the discussions that the issue of fishermen was an emotive one that concerned the livelihood of fishermen from both the countries and has to be handled with great care and sensitivity.

The Government is in touch with the State Governments of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry and the Government of Sri Lanka to facilitate resumption of talks between Fishermen Associations from both countries.

Country's membership in Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

2457. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Russia would push for India's full membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) during the upcoming meeting it is hosting in July, 2015; and