

Border Affairs and diplomatic channels. The two sides agree that peace and tranquility on the border is the basis for the continued expansion of India-China relations.

Arrest of Former President of Maldives

805. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the arrest of former Maldives President Nasheed in Male;
- (b) whether the media reports that former Maldives President Nasheed had sought asylum in India much before the arrest are correct;
- (c) whether the Prime Minister plans to visit Male and Sri Lanka; and
- (d) if so, whether the arrest has bearing on India-Maldives ties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH]: (a) Government is aware of the arrest and subsequent sentencing of former President Nasheed of Maldives.

(b) Government had not received any request from former President Nasheed for asylum in India prior to his arrest.

(c) Exchange of bilateral visits at all levels are an integral part of our bilateral engagement with neighbouring countries. In this context, the Prime Minister has already undertaken a visit to Sri Lanka on 13-14 March, 2015.

(d) India has traditional and age old ties of friendship and cooperation with Maldives. While expressing concern at recent developments in the Maldives, including the arrest and manhandling of former President Nasheed, Government had urged all concerned in the Maldives to calm the situation down and resolve their differences within the constitutional and legal framework of Maldives. Government also reiterated its commitment to supporting the people and the Government of Maldives in their quest for peace, development, prosperity and democracy.

Social responsibility gap

806. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Public Sector Units (PSUs) fail to bridge the social responsibility gap;