

to terrorism. Other decisions also taken at the meeting were for an early meeting of DG BSF and DG Pakistan Rangers followed by that of DGMOs, and for discussions on ways and means to expedite the Mumbai case trial including additional information like providing voice samples. A decision to release fishermen in each other's custody along with their boats within a period of 15 days and establishing a mechanism for facilitating religious tourism were also arrived at.

Government continues to take necessary measures to safeguard India's territorial integrity, and the safety, security and welfare of our citizens.

Exit of Prof. Amartya Sen From Nalanda University

2767.DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) what factors contributed to the exit of Prof. Amartya Sen from the Nalanda University;
- (b) whether his exit affects the prestige and functioning of the University; and
- (c) whether Government agreed with the learned professor that there is too much of interference in the working of Indian Universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) Prof. Amartya Sen was appointed as the First Chancellor of Nalanda University w.e.f. 18th July, 2012 for a period of three years. As his tenure of three years was nearing completion, Prof. Sen had publically declared that he wanted to exclude himself from being considered for continuing as Chancellor of Nalanda University beyond July 2015. Subsequently, the Governing Board of Nalanda University recommended three names to the Visitor of Nalanda University for the post of Chancellor including the name of Mr. George Yeo, former Foreign Minister of Singapore. The President of India, in his capacity as the Visitor of Nalanda University, has appointed Mr. George Yeo as the Chancellor of Nalanda University w.e.f. July 17, 2015.

(b) No. The exit of Professor Amartya Sen as Chancellor will not affect the prestige and functioning of Nalanda University. Mr. George Yeo who has succeeded Prof. Sen as the Chancellor of Nalanda University is an eminent personality and the former Foreign Minister of Singapore. He was the first dignitary from the East Asia Summit Group to moot the 'Nalanda proposal' in 2006 which culminated in the establishment of Nalanda University in Rajgir, Bihar.

- (c) No.