

Change in Indo-China relations

†1162. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the kind of positive change came about in Indo-China relations after China visit by the Prime Minister and the Minister of External Affairs of India;

(b) whether India has been able to change China's attitude towards Pakistan; and

(c) if so, in what manner and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) to (c) External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt. Sushma Swaraj visited China from 31 January to 03 February, 2015. During the visit, Note Verbales to finalize the modalities to commence Kailash Mansarovar Yatra through Nathu La starting in June, 2015 were exchanged.

Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi visited China from 14-16 May, 2015. The visit resulted in 24 MoUs/Agreements in very broad subject areas *e.g.* Science and Technology, Railways, Education, Trade and Commerce etc. and 26 Business Agreements/MoUs valued at over US\$ 22 Billion were signed. Bilateral engagement was expanded through creation of State/Provincial Leaders' Forum.

During the meetings with the Chinese side, various issues of mutual interest and concern were discussed. Chinese side emphasized their policy of attaching priority to the development of good-neighbourly and friendly bilateral relations with India.

Indians migrated to US on H1B visa

1163. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large number of Indian professionals migrated to US on H1B visas during the last two years, and this year, if so, the details during the period, year-wise;

(b) whether the US has committed to increase such visas for Indian professionals, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) As per the US Department of State, the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

US issued 99,705 and 108,817 H1B visas to Indian professionals (having India as the country of their birth) in the year 2013 and 2014, respectively. The total number of H1B visas (nonimmigrant visas) issued to Indian nationals by the US for the last six years (2009-2014) are as follows:

Nonimmigrant Visa	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
H1B Visas	55,886	58,664	72,438	80,630	99,705	108,817

(b) No. However, Senator Orrin Hatch (Republican from Utah) on January 13, 2015 introduced a bill called the Immigration Innovation (I-Squared) Bill of 2015. One of the key provisions of this bill is increasing the H1B cap. The bill has been sent to Senate Judiciary Committee which has jurisdiction over immigration related bills, but there has been no movement on this bill so far.

(c) The Government of India has continued to engage the US Administration on non-discriminatory application of their visa policy. H1B visa related issues such as increase in visa processing fees, high rejection rates and other difficulties faced by Indian services companies have been raised with the US Government at various forums including the Trade Policy Forum in November, 2014. This issue has also been taken up with the leadership of the US Congress.

Indo-Pakistan meeting in SCO, UFA, Russia

†1164. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the issues on which consensus was arrived at between the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan in their meeting in Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO) summit held in Ufa city of Russia and by when the outcome thereof is likely to come up; and

(b) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) and (b) Prime Minister met the Prime Minister of Pakistan on 10 July, 2015, on the sidelines of SCO Summit in Ufa, Russia.

During the meeting the following steps were agreed by the two sides:

(i) A meeting in New Delhi between the two NSAs to discuss all issues connected to terrorism.

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