

consistently advised the Government of Nepal that the issues facing Nepal are political in nature, which cannot be resolved through force.

The Ministry is continuously monitoring developments in the Maldives and maintains a regular dialogue at various levels with the Government of Maldives to safeguard India's interests.

(b) In his speech at the Universal Periodic Review of Nepal at the UN Human Rights Council on 4th November 2015 in Geneva, the Head of the Nepalese delegation Deputy PM and Foreign Minister Shri Kamal Thapa spoke about difficulties in flow of supplies to Nepal. In our statement at that forum, the Government of India reiterated that obstruction is on the Nepalese side caused by Nepalese protestors.

(c) No.

(d) Sections of the Nepalese population have been causing obstructions at the India-Nepal border from the Nepalese side, in protest against the new Constitution. There is no hindrance from the Indian side. Government of India has facilitated supplies wherever possible. Several thousand trucks have remained stranded for weeks and have been waiting on the Indian side of the border crossings. The primary crossing of Raxaul-Birgunj, which accounts for two-thirds of our trade, remains closed from their side for more than two months. However, every day several hundred cargo trucks have still been passing through those crossing points that are open and available. Movement of POL and medical supplies have been facilitated, including by re-routing.

#### **Nepal going close to China**

503. SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY:

SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY:

SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's relationship with the Himalayan nation Nepal have gone from bad to worse;

(b) whether this is also a fact that Nepal is now moving towards China; and

(c) the actions Government propose to take to mollify Nepal and smoothen our relations with Nepal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
[GENERAL (RETD) V. K. SINGH]: (a) No.

(b) The two nations have a long-standing relationship. But India's ties with Nepal stand on their own merits.

(c) India continues to maintain close engagement and bilateral exchanges, as well as extend all assistance in accordance with the aspirations of the people of Nepal, for peace, stability and socio-economic development of the country.

#### **Diplomatic protection for embassy officials**

504. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken by Government in rape case in which a Saudi diplomat is involved; and

(b) whether Government has taken any measures to avoid such incidents in the future and also to protect Indian domestic helpers and other staff personnel from such misbehaviours from Embassy officials having diplomatic protection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) The alleged rape case of Nepalese housemaids by a Saudi diplomat has been taken up with the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia through the established diplomatic channels. The matter is under investigation by the Indian Law Enforcement Agencies. Any further action will have to await the results of the investigation.

(b) The Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations 1961 deals with the immunity and privileges granted to foreign diplomats for their conduct during their diplomatic/consular assignments abroad. The case of the Saudi diplomat is being dealt with accordingly.

#### **MoU during India Africa Summit, 2015**

505. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many dignitaries and countries attended India Africa Summit, 2015, the details thereof along with the names of the countries;

(b) the details of agreements and memoranda signed by Government with various countries during the said Summit; and

(c) whether any promise of aid has been made to the African countries, if so, the details thereof along with names of countries?