

(b) the number of Indians that were in the hostage and whether any person of Indian origin killed in the terror attack, with details thereof; and

(c) whether any advisory has been sent to avoid visiting potential areas in such countries so that persons of Indian origin or NRIs can feel safe, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) and (b) As per information shared by the Government of Mali, two terrorists entered hotel Radisson Blu in Bamako in the morning of November 20, 2015 and started shooting at guests staying in the hotel. The attack resulted in death of 20 persons before the terrorists were killed by the security forces. The dead included Ms. Anita Ashok Datar, an American national of Indian origin. Twenty Indian nationals, who had been staying permanently in a residential block inside the hotel complex, were present at their accommodation at the time of the incident. They were evacuated safely by the security forces.

(c) No such advisory has been issued.

South China sea dispute

2090. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM:

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has asked the parties involved in South China Sea dispute to learn from the successful arbitration of India's maritime territorial dispute with Bangladesh under United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether China's nine dash line claims almost the entire South China Sea and Beijing continues to maintain that UNCLOS does not have the mandate to deal with territorial issues; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to convince all other parties involved in South China Sea dispute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) In his remarks at the 10th East Asia Summit in Kuala Lumpur on 22 November 2015, Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi said, "India and Bangladesh recently settled their maritime boundary using the mechanism of UNCLOS. India hopes that all parties to the disputes in the South China Sea will abide by the Declaration on the Conduct on South China Sea and the guidelines on the implementation."

(b) Sovereignty over the reefs, islands and adjacent territorial waters in South China Sea is disputed between many countries in the region. India is not a party to this dispute. China has not given precise geographical definition of its claims in the South China Sea. China is a party to United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Premier Li Keqiang, in his speech at the 10th East Asia Summit in Kuala Lumpur on 22 November 2015, said that the countries directly concerned should peacefully settle sovereign and jurisdictional disputes through friendly consultations and negotiations in accordance with universally recognized principles of International Law, including UNCLOS of 1982.

(c) India's position on South China Sea issue is consistent and has been reiterated bilaterally and in multilateral fora on several occasions. India supports freedom of navigation in international waters while maintaining that sovereignty issues must be resolved peacefully by the countries which are parties to the dispute in accordance with accepted principles of international law, including the United Nations' Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) 1982. India has also taken note of the 2002 Declaration of Conduct which *inter-alia* states that 'the Parties undertake to resolve their territorial and jurisdictional disputes by peaceful means, without resorting to threat or use of force.

Shifting of headquarters of Haj Committee

2091. SHRI GULAM RASOOL BALLYAWI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer of Unstarred Question 1720 given in Rajya Sabha on 24 July 2014 and state:

(a) whether any fresh suggestions or requests have been received by Government for shifting the Headquarters of Haj Committee of India from Mumbai to Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) and (b) A suggestion was received by the Ministry for shifting of Headquarters of Haj Committee of India from Mumbai to Delhi from Shri Gulam Rasool Balyawi, MP. However, at present, there is no proposal to shift the Headquarters of Haj Committee of India from Mumbai to Delhi.

Nuclear agreement with Australia

2092. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Australia has said that the civil nuclear agreement allowing it to supply uranium to India and the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement