

Indians deported from US

823. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM:
SHRI DEVENDER GAUD T.:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many Indian students were deported from US recently if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has taken up this issue with the US Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the response received from the US Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) to (c) Recently, there were several instances of denial of entry by the US Immigration authorities to Indian students holding valid visas. According to the US Government, these students had presented information to the border patrol agent which was inconsistent with their visa status.

MEA issued two advisories on December 23, 2015 and December 30, 2015 in this regard. Through these Advisories, the Government advised the students seeking admission in the US educational institutions to do due diligence to ensure that the institutions to which they were seeking admission had proper authorization and capacities. The students were also advised to carry all required documentation. Government of India was also in contact with the concerned State Governments on the issue.

Government of India strongly took up the matter with the US Government. Government emphasized the need for the US authorities to honour the visas issued by their own Embassy/Consulates. Government has closely engaged with the US Government with the aim of ensuring that no bonafide students or other travellers were denied entry.

Relations with Pakistan after Pathankot air base attack

824. SHRI K.T.S. TULSI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of Government with respect to relations with Pakistan, in the backdrop of attack on Pathankot Air base;

(b) whether the dialogue between India and Pakistan can be uninterrupted and uninteruptible; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to boost trade between two nations or to intensify people-to-people contact?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) and (b) The Government is committed to working towards a normal relationship with Pakistan by addressing all outstanding issues through bilateral peaceful dialogue. In this context, it has been reiterated to Pakistan that it needs to fulfil its repeated assurances including at the highest level to not allow its territory or areas under its control for aiding and abetting terrorism directed against India.

Both sides agreed on 9 December 2015 to a Comprehensive Bilateral Dialogue on all outstanding issues in view of the express assurance by Pakistan to take steps for expediting the Mumbai Terror Attack trial underway in Pakistan and the mutual understanding to cooperate with each other to eliminate terrorism in all its forms. After the Pathankot attack on 2-4 January 2016, it was conveyed to Pakistan at the highest level that it must take firm and immediate action against the organization and individuals in Pakistan responsible for and linked to the attack.

(c) Government encourages more interaction and exchanges between business persons, civil society and the common persons of the two countries. The Comprehensive Bilateral Dialogue agreed between the two countries in December 2015 will also encompass economic and commercial cooperation, humanitarian issues, people-to-people exchanges and religious tourism.

Chinese submarine lurking near India

825. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Chinese submarine is reportedly lurking in waters around India, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has taken up this issue with the Chinese Government, if so, the response received by it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) and (b) Government is aware that One Chinese PLA Navy Submarine Support Vessel and one Yuan Class PLA Navy Submarine entered Karachi Port on 23 May 2015 and left on 29 May for deployment in Gulf of Aden. A conventional (diesel- powered) Chinese submarine berthed at Colombo Port from 7-13 September, 2014 and 31 October–6 November, 2014.