

[15 July, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) if so, whether this is an impediment in the proposed exchange of enclaves between both the countries; and

(c) the efforts being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) All pending issues relating to the Land Boundary Agreement 1974 were discussed in the Joint Boundary Working Groups set up for the purpose.

#### **Visit of Indian delegation to Pakistan**

435. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Indian delegation visited Pakistan this year;

(b) if so, what subjects of mutual interest were discussed with them;

(c) the details of agreement reached during the visit and other details in this respect; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) The details regarding the Indian delegations that have visited Pakistan since January, 2004 till date are as below:

- i. The Prime Minister of India visited Islamabad from 4-6 January, 2004 to attend the 12th SAARC Summit. At the conclusion of the SAARC Summit on 6 January, 2004 the Islamabad Declaration, the Additional Protocol to the Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism, the SAARC Social Charter and South Asia Free Trade Area (SAFTA) Agreement were signed. On sidelines of the SAARC Summit, then Prime Minister Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee met President Parvez Musharraf of Pakistan, and a Joint Press Statement was issued on 6 January, 2004.
- ii. A delegation led by Shri A.J.S. Sawhney, Chairman and Managing Director, Delhi Transport Corporation, visited Pakistan from 12-16 January, 2004 for a technical level meeting to review/

renew the Agreement and Protocol for regulation of bus service between New Delhi and Lahore. During the meeting, an Additional Protocol was agreed to between the two sides, and the Agreement extended for another 5 years. The recommendations were also made regarding the fare structure, return reservation facility, excess baggage, settlement of account and increase in passenger amenities.

- iii. Deputy Chairperson of Rajya Sabha, Smt. Najma Heptullah, attended the First Ladies summit of the Regional Steering Committee on the Economic Advancement of Rural and Island Women for Asia-Pacific Region (RSC-AP) held in Islamabad on February 10-12, 2004 as Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of India.
- iv. An Indian delegation, including Foreign Secretary Shri Shashank and Joint Secretary Shri Arun K. Singh, Ministry of External Affairs, visited Pakistan on February 16-18, 2004 to commence the process of the Composite Dialogue. A Joint Press Statement was issued on February 18 after the Foreign Secretary level talks, *inter alia*, elaborating a scheduled of meeting in the framework of the composite Dialogue.
- v. A delegation, including Justice V.N. Khare, Chief Justice of India, Justice R.C. Lahoti, visited Pakistan from February 20-23, 2004 to attend 10th SAARC Chief Justices' Law Conference in Karachi. In addition, Justice Vijayendra Jain and Justice B.A. Khan from Delhi High Court visited Pakistan from February 20-23, 2004 to attend the SAARC Law Conference.
- vi. A delegation led by Joint Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways visited Pakistan on 9-10 March, 2004 for technical level discussions on starting a bus service between Munnabao (Rajasthan) and Khokhrapar (Sindh). A Joint Press Statement was issued on March 10 in which the two sides affirmed their commitment to commence the bus service between Munnabao and Khokhrapar, and agreed to meet again to continue discussions.
- vii. ABSF delegation led by Shri G.S. Gill, Inspector General, visited Pakistan from 24-27 March 2004 for meeting with Pakistan

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Rangers. They *inter alia* discussed issues relating to drug trafficking and smuggling of contraband, illegal crossings, maintenance and repair of boundary pillars, etc.

- viii. President of the Indian Olympic Association, Shri Suresh Kalmadi, visited Pakistan in March 2004 in connection with the SAF games.
- ix. A delegation from the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports led by Shri Rajiv Srivastava, Secretary, visited Islamabad from 29 March to 7 April, 2004 as the official delegation of the Government of India to the SAF games.
- x. A three-member delegation of the Permanent Indus Commission, led by Shri D.K. Mehta, Commissioner (Indus) from Ministry of Water Resources visited Pakistan from 1 -8 May 2004 for inspection of water projects and sites in Pakistan
- xi. Shri D.T Joseph, Secretary Ministry of Shipping visited Karachi, Pakistan, to participate in the International Ports and Shipping Conference from 2-9 May, 2004.
- xii. Shri S.S. Kapur, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, led a delegation to Islamabad from 5-7 May 2004 to attend the second meeting of the Committee of Experts on SAFTA.
- xiii A delegation led by Smt. Nirupama Rao, Additional Secretary (HR), Ministry of External Affairs, visited Islamabad and Karachi from 6-13 May 2004 for inspection of High Commission in Islamabad and Government of India properties in Karachi.
- xiv. The meeting for cooperation in the area of drug trafficking and smuggling was held on June 15-16, 2004 in Islamabad. The Indian delegation was led by Shri M. K. Singh, DG, Narcotics Control Bureau The Pakistan side was led by Major (Retd ) Khalid Latif, Secretary, Ministry of Narcotics Control of Pakistan. The two sides reviewed the drug situation in the region.
- xv. The first meeting on the SAARC Working Group on Energy was held in Islamabad on June 15-16, 2004. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Ajay Shankar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Power

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†Original notice of (he question was received in Hindi

The meeting discussed the setting up an energy ring in South Asia and promotion of regional cooperation in the Energy sector.

- xvi. The second conference of the SAARC Communication Ministers was held in Islamabad on June 29-30, 2004. The Indian delegation to the conference was led by Shri Dayanidhi Maran, Minister for Communications and Information Technology. The SAARC Ministers discussed ways to promote regional cooperation.

#### **Assistance for Kailash Mansarovar Yatra**

† 436. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Central assistance being provided to the Government of Uttaranchal for Kailash Mansarovar Yatra; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to provide subsidy for the same on the lines of "Haj pilgrimage" in order to make this Yatra more comfortable and convenient?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) (a) and (b) Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) provides Rs. 3,250/- per Yatri to Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam (KMVN) to partially offset the expenditure incurred by the Yatris. (KMVN) arranges board and lodging for Yatris on the Indian side. Government provides free medical inspection and assistance security and escort cover upto Lipulekh Pass, insurance cover and communication links for the duration of the Yatra. A Liaison Officer is attached to each batch of Yatris at Government expenditure. MEA also coordinates the Yatra.

It is the constant endeavour of the Government to make this Yatra more comfortable and convenient.

#### **Nuclear confidence building measures between India and Pakistan**

† 437. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:  
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in continuation of improving Indo-Pak relations India and Pakistan discussed specific Nuclear Confidence

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