

dedicate and secure the existing hotline between the DGMOs; establish a dedicated and secure hotline between the two Foreign Secretaries; and work towards concluding an Agreement on pre-notification of flight testing of missiles, a draft of which was handed over by the Indian side.

Illegal migration to foreign countries

432. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of cases are being reported by various embassies for defrauding people by promising to help them illegally entering the USA, UK, Canada and other countries;

(b) if so, the details of complaints received from various embassies during the last two years;

(c) whether some top musicians/singers/fake sports clubs are involved in this illegal trade; and

(d) if so, the details of cases reported so far and the action taken by Government to prevent such illegal migration to foreign countries?

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

(b) A statement giving the details prepared on the basis of information received from various Indian Missions/Posts abroad is annexed. (See below)

(c) and (d) Some cases of such alleged involvement have been reported. The action taken by Government to prevent illegal migration to foreign countries include investigation by the police authorities concerned; action against the persons, including agents, who are involved in illegal migration; cooperation with other countries for repatriation of illegal migrants after confirming their Indian nationality; and restricting the facility of passport to illegal migrants.

Statement***Illegal immigration to foreign countries***

During the past few years, a number of Indian Missions/Posts abroad have brought to Ministry's notice several incidents of Indian nationals-individually or in groups-making attempts to migrate to countries in Western Europe and North America through illegal and fraudulent means. Many of these illegal immigrants are from Punjab. They try to migrate illegally mainly for economic reasons and are often assisted by unscrupulous agents and touts to whom they pay large sums of money. These illegal immigrants are taken to the developed countries in Western Europe and North America through Russia and other Eastern European countries which are used as transit countries for the purpose of illegal immigration. The general *modus operandi* for such activities is that after leaving India they intentionally lose or destroy their travel documents to prevent verification of their real identity/nationality status and their repatriation back to India. After reaching the country of their destination they either apply for political asylum or refugee status on one ground or the other or even obtain fake/forged travel documents establishing their right of residence in the country destination. They make use of loopholes in the local legal system, including by getting married to a local person for the purpose of obtaining citizenship, in order to prolong their stay in the country of destination with the ultimate aim of staying there permanently. However, many such illegal immigrants are caught and put in foreign jails.

2. Illegal immigration has largely been taking place from the developing and least developed countries to the developed countries in Western Europe, North America, Australia and New Zealand. However, in the post-9/11 scenario European and North American countries which were favoured destinations for illegal immigration have made their rules more stringent. The result is that not only the number of persons going to these countries as illegal immigrants has come down but these countries have also started repatriating illegal immigrants to their home countries.

3. The illegal immigration from India continues unabated and various countries of the world, particularly Western Europe and North America as also transit countries in Eastern Europe, are swamped by

fresh illegal immigrants from India almost on a daily basis. The number of agents and touts also seems to be increasing as illegal immigrants try to use all means including illegal means, to reach their destinations.

4. Both the Central and State Governments have been working to identify agents and touts involved in illegal immigration and to take all necessary measures against them. The Government is also cooperating with the foreign countries for the speedy repatriation of India illegal immigrants.

Inclusion of India in US Missile Defense Programme

433. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formed any opinion on the US offer to include India in the missile defense programme;

(b) whether Washington gave a presentation on the issue at a meeting of the Defense Policy Group that concluded in Simla on June 4;

(c) whether presentation and briefings on missile defense programme were made during the three day meeting of the policy group which guides the Indo-US military relations;

(d) if so, the details of final decision arrived at; and

(e) whether Government have accepted plans of US on defense missile?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO Inderjit Singh): (a) to (e) Presentations and briefings by the US side on missile defense have been on the agenda of the India-US Defense Policy Group since 2001. The US side made a presentation on missile defense in Delhi on 1 June, 2004 at the last meeting of the Defense Policy Group. There is no change in the policy of the Government under which it has held preliminary discussions and dialogue with the US on the subject of missile defense.

Undemarcated Indo-Bangla Border

434. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that part of the Indo-Bangladesh border remains undemarcated;