

Sl. No.	Name of the country	Sl. No.	Name of the country
43.	Nicaragua	56.	Solomon Islands
44.	Niue	57.	Suriname
45.	Palau	58.	St. Kitts & Nevis
46.	Panama	59.	St. Lucia
47.	Papua New Guinea	60.	St. Vincent & Grenadines
48.	Paraguay	61.	Syria
49.	Poland	62.	Timor Leste
50.	Portugal	63.	Tonga
51.	Romania	64.	Trinidad & Tobago
52.	Samoa	65.	Tuvalu
53.	San Marino	66.	Ukraine
54.	Serbia	67.	Uruguay
55.	Slovakia	68.	Vanuatu

Co-sponsoring of 2016 UNGA Resolution on child Marriage

2576. SHRI D. P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government co-sponsored the 2016 UNGA Resolution on Child, Early and Forced Marriage (CEFM) in the UN General Assembly on 21st November, 2016; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. J. AKBAR): (a) and (b) The resolution on 'Child, early and forced marriage' initiated by Canada during the 71st Session of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) October-November, 2016 was adopted without a vote on 22 November, 2016. This is the fourth year that it has been adopted in the Third Committee of the UNGA. As in the past, India did not co-sponsor the resolution. In India's view the term 'early marriage' lacks clarity and our domestic legislations do not recognize 'early and forced marriage'. In this context, India has proposed to qualify the term 'child, early and forced marriage' by inserting 'giving due

consideration to the domestic legislation of member countries and relevant to international law' to the text. Sponsors of the resolution have not taken note of our view.

Request from Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on fishermen

2577. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received requests from the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to take steps to stop the frequent harassment and attacks on Indian fishermen and seizure of their boats and fishing equipment by the Sri Lankan Navy;

(b) if so, the details of the action taken in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for restoring the traditional fishing rights of Indian Fishermen in Bay of Bengal and for protecting their rights over the islands which belonged to them for many centuries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH]: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) Government regularly takes up issues related to Indian fishermen with Government of Sri Lanka, including at the highest levels.

An India-Sri Lanka Ministerial level meeting on fishermen issues was held in New Delhi on 5 November 2016. It agreed to set up a Joint Working Group (JWG) on Fisheries, between Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare of India and Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development of Sri Lanka, as a bilateral institutional mechanism to help find a permanent solution to all fishermen issues. It has also been agreed that Ministers for Fisheries of the two countries would meet every six months to review the progress.

India-Myanmar-Thailand highway

2578. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to extend the proposed India-Myanmar-Thailand (IMT) highway to the CLMV (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam) countries in the second phase, despite the first phase being stuck on procedural issues; and

(b) by when IMT is likely to become operational together with the details thereof?