

As per available information, 62 criminal fugitives, including those wanted for crimes related to terrorism, have been successfully brought back to India since 2002.

Closeness of Russia, Pakistan and China

3216. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) in what manner India looks at Russia, Pakistan and China coming closer and closer;
- (b) whether it is because of India moving towards the United States of America (USA); and
- (c) what would be the result of newer combinations and how India is planning to go ahead with formation of such new group?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH): (a) to (c) Government of India as a matter of policy does not comment on third country relationships. It pursues an independent foreign policy driven by India's national interests. Government keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's security and takes all necessary measures to safeguard its interests.

Land purchased in Port of Spain for cultural centre

3217. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian High Commission at Port of Spain had purchased a land in 1994 for construction of Culture Centre for Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Cultural Cooperation;
- (b) if so, the present status thereof along with the reasons for inordinate delay in its construction along with the details of cost escalation so far; and
- (c) the fresh steps taken by Government for early completion of construction work on the project?

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

(b) and (c) Tenders for selection of a Contractor is awaiting the Environmental clearance from the Government of Trinidad and Tobago. No cost escalation has taken place so far.