

Extradition request for fugitives hiding abroad

964. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of our extradition requests for fugitives hiding abroad is pending with various foreign countries, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government to bring back those fugitives and take due legal action against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) As per available information, 110 extradition requests made to various foreign countries, namely USA (33), UAE (19), UK (15), Canada (13), Germany (3), Nepal (3), Bangladesh (3), Singapore (3), Italy (3), Australia (2), South Africa (2), Denmark (2), Nigeria (2), France (1), Spain (1), Venezuela (1), Saudi Arabia (1), Thailand (1), Hong Kong (1) and Oman (1), are at various stages of execution.

(b) The Government of India has been making every effort to bring fugitives and criminals to justice. To facilitate extradition, India has signed extradition treaties with as many as 47 countries, and entered into extradition arrangements with 9 more countries. In addition, India has entered into Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty in Criminal Matters with 39 countries for facilitating investigations and service of judicial documents abroad. The Government also facilitates execution of Letters of Request issued by the Indian Courts and uses INTERPOL channel for issuance of Red Corner Notices against the fugitives and criminals. Government efforts have succeeded in securing the extradition and return of a number of criminals and fugitives.

Indo-Sri Lanka joint working group on fisheries

965. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Sri Lanka have reached an agreement on establishing a joint working group on fisheries to resolve the dispute between fishermen of both the countries; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) and (b) Yes. India and Sri Lanka agreed on setting up of a Joint Working Group (JWG) on Fisheries between the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare of India and Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic