

(d) the steps being taken by Government to rescue and bring them back to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) to (d) As reported by the Indian Consulate, Erbil, Iraq, 55 Indian workers were stranded in Erbil, Iraq. The Consulate approached the host Government for repatriation of these Indian nationals who have over-stayed their visas. The issue was taken up by the Consul General during his meetings with the Prime Minister and the Interior Minister of Kurdistan. As a result of these efforts, a group of 19 Indian nationals has travelled back to India on November 10, 2016, without payment of any overstayal penalty. The Consulate is also contacting the remaining 36 individuals to reconfirm their consent to be repatriated to India so that the host Government may be requested to facilitate their repatriation. The Indian Consulate in Erbil has recently received representations from the stranded Indian nationals and one NGO from Telangana.

Setting houses of Hindus on fire in Bangladesh

†969. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that incidents of setting houses of Hindus on fire and vandalising the temples at Brahmanbaria district in Bangladesh have come before the Ministry, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of attacks on Hindus and places of worship of Hindus in Bangladesh during the last three years and whether matter of curbing such incidents and action against vandals has been raised with Bangladesh and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) and (b) Sporadic incidents of violence against members of the minority community including on their properties and places of worship, have been reported in Bangladesh. These include recent attacks in Brahmanbaria District in which several houses and a few Hindu temples were vandalized.

The primary responsibility for the protection of life and liberty of all citizens of Bangladesh, including minorities, rests with the Government of Bangladesh. India's concerns and sensitivities with regard to such incidents have been conveyed to the Bangladesh Government, including at the highest political levels. Government of

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Bangladesh has made it clear that it takes these attacks very seriously and that stern action would be taken against their perpetrators.

Outcome of 17th NAM summit

970. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the outcome of the 17th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit in terms of its relevance for India's foreign policy; and

(b) whether Government acknowledges that the absence of our Prime Minister in the summit would impact India's standing within the 120-member group, 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 main outcomes of the recently concluded 17th Non-Aligned Movement Summit meeting held at Margarita Island in Venezuela from 17-18 September, 2016, contained in the Summit Declaration document, included amongst other issues, a strong condemnation by the Heads of State and Governments of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, whatever its motivations, wherever and by whomsoever they are committed. It also called for reforms of the Security Council, in order to transform it into a more democratic, effective, efficient, transparent and representative body, in line with contemporary geo-political realities.

Vice President Shri M. Hamid Ansari led the high level Indian delegation to the recent NAM Summit. India's position as a founder member of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and its active contribution to efforts to strengthen NAM capabilities to deal with contemporary challenges faced by developing countries, is widely recognized.

Reports about illegal migrants abroad

971. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any reports about Indian citizens staying in various countries as illegal migrants, if so, the details thereof and the reasons which made them stay illegally; and

(b) the assistance being offered by the Indian diplomatic missions to help such immigrants in distress?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) Our Missions and Posts abroad do not have any reliable data about Indians staying illegally in various countries. Many