

member of a terrorist group that hijacked IC-814 in 1999 and Sheikh Omar Saeed who was freed from prison in India following the hijacking of IC-814.

(b) Details of ongoing investigative matters by intelligence agencies in the United States are not available in the public realm as is the case in other countries, including India.

Monitoring of functioning of Indian Embassies

941. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any system of monitoring the functioning of Indian Embassies/High Commissions abroad;

(b) if so, the details of latest study/review conducted in this regard;

(c) whether it has been found that Indian Embassy abroad, do not take-up the causes/grievances of Indians working abroad with the respective local Governments; and

(d) whether Government would look into this matter and take necessary steps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) The functioning of the Indian Embassies/High Commissions is reviewed by the Ministry on a continuous basis in the context of our overall national interests and in the backdrop of stated goals and objectives of the Government in respect of that country. Ministry reviews the functioning of the Missions/Posts abroad through various reports sent by the Missions such as annual assessment reports, special dispatches sent from time to time and regular reports on political, commercial, cultural matters etc., visits by senior officers from the Ministry, reports of audits of the Missions carried out by CAG's office on financial matters, and feedback received from visiting delegations to that country.

(b) The Ministry of External Affairs has also created a Foreign Service Inspectorate since February, 2004 to carry out 'Performance Audit' of Indian Missions/Posts abroad, which encompasses not only overall functioning of the Missions/Posts keeping in mind the overall national interest of the country, but also performance of the individual officers posted in the Missions/Posts. Prior to creation of the Foreign Service

Inspectorate, the Ministry has been sending senior officers from time to time to inspect functioning of the Missions.

(c) and (d) The Indian Embassies abroad are sensitive to the needs of Indians working abroad. Officers dealing with consular matters and also the commercial wings of the Missions, remain in regular contact with the concerned agencies in the respective local governments dealing with foreign nationals working in the country. As and when necessary, the Ministry also takes up the matter with the foreign Embassies based in Delhi in addition to the efforts made by the Indian Missions/Posts abroad in taking up the matter with the local governments in the respective countries.

Secretary level talks between India and Pakistan

†942. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have offered a proposal for Secretary level talks with Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the details of the talks held, so far, along with the matters discussed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (b) Foreign Secretary level talks between India and Pakistan were held in New Delhi on June 27-28, 2004. The two Foreign Secretaries discussed the subjects 'Peace and Security including CBMs' and 'Jammu and Kashmir' within the framework of the Composite Dialogue. They exchanged views on carrying the process forward in an atmosphere free from terrorism and violence. In the Joint Statement issued at the end of the talks on June 28, the Foreign Secretaries, *inter alia*, approved the measures recommended by the Expert level meeting on Nuclear CBMs in New Delhi on 19-20 June, 2004. The two sides proposed a comprehensive framework for CBMs aimed at initiating and enhancing communication, coordination and interaction. It was also agreed to immediately restore the strength of the respective High Commissions to the original level of 110; to immediately release all apprehended fishermen in each other's custody and put in

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.