

delegations, holding various market expansion/trade promotion activities, participation in various exhibitions, trade fairs, etc. Indian Embassies and Missions Act as the interface and nodal point in facilitating bilateral trade relations at the Government to Government, Government to Business, Business and Business levels. They respond to commercial enquires from India and host country; Organize visits of Chamber of Commerce, Export and Trade Promotion Councils; Liaise with local Chamber of Commerce; and Organize Seminar and Workshops to disseminate information regarding Government of India's flagship programmes.

**Increased attacks on Indian techies in USA**

1605. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.:

CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how the Minister looks at the increasing attacks on Indian techies in the United States of America (USA) recently;

(b) whether the Ministry is aware that two techies from Telangana have been killed during the last one month there;

(c) if so, how the Ministry is going to protect IT and other professionals working there;

(d) whether any consultations have been held with the recently visited congressional group from USA; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) to (c) In recent weeks, three incidents of physical attack in the United States on Indian Nationals and Persons of Indian Origin have come to the notice of the Government.

(i) On February 22, Srinivas Kuchibhotla, a 32-year-old Indian engineer was shot dead by a US national in Kansas City suburb of Olathe. Another Indian national, Alok Madasani, present on the spot was also injured in the shooting. Ian Grillot an American national, who tried to stop the shooting, was also shot and injured during the incident. Both the injured persons have received treatment and since been discharged from the hospital. The accused has been arrested by the Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation is investigating it as a case of 'hate crime'.

- (ii) On March 2, Harnish Patel, a US National of Indian origin, was shot dead by unknown individuals in Lancaster, South Carolina. Investigations are underway to identify the culprits and to ascertain if this was a racially motivated crime.
- (iii) On March 4, Deep Rai, a US National of Indian origin, was shot by an unknown person in Kent, near Seattle in Washington State. Shri Deep Rai has received treatment and has been discharged from the hospital. The culprit is yet to be arrested and the investigating agencies are yet to establish that it is a 'hate crime'.

The Government has taken up this issue with the US Government at very high-levels and conveyed our deep concerns. We have called for necessary measures to ensure the safety and security of Indian Diaspora and expeditious investigation into these incidents. The US Authorities have responded strongly and assured us that they are working with all concerned agencies to ensure speedy justice. There has been widespread condemnation of these incidents by the US leadership, both in the Administration and the Congress.

The Government has also reached out to affected persons and their families for extending all possible help and support. Close contacts with the local Indian Community Groups are being maintained through our Mission and Consulates in the US for addressing any emergent issues.

(d) and (e) The issue was discussed in detail with the Congressional leadership by Foreign Secretary during his visit to the US from February 28 to March 3, 2017. After his meeting with Foreign Secretary, Speaker of the House of Representatives Paul Ryan issued a statement expressing the House's condolences on the Kansas incident. The House also observed a moment of silence. Several Senators and Congressmen have also expressed their condolences and regret over these incidents.

#### **Passports for children with single mother**

1606. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the fact that despite the provisions that only one parent's name is mandatory while submitting the application for issue of passport, it is extremely difficult for children with single mother to get a passport; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps being taken by Government to simplify the process for such children?