

accordance with the IWT. Pakistan is believed to have raised IWT matters with other countries, including the US.

(c) On November 10, 2016, the Government had pointed out the legal untenability of the World Bank launching two simultaneous processes for appointment of a Neutral Expert - requested by India, and establishment of a Court of Arbitration -requested by Pakistan to adjudicate technical differences between India and Pakistan on Kishenganga and Ralte projects. On December 10, 2016, the Bank temporarily halted the two processes. World Bank has engaged both India and Pakistan on the matter. The Government has conveyed to the World Bank that it is in the interest of all parties to ensure workability of the Treaty and its time-tested mechanisms.

Damage to properties of Indians in Nepal

‡3210. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Indian properties in Nepal are being damaged;
- (b) if so, the names of cities where such incidents have occurred and the amount of loss caused therefrom;
- (c) whether Government has tried to find out the reasons for such incidents; and
- (d) if so, the details of steps taken to prevent them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government attaches the highest importance to the safety and security of Indian citizens in Nepal. There have been some instances of damage caused to properties of Indians, including vehicles belonging to Indians or carrying Indian number plate in districts such as Kathmandu, Kanchanpur, Surkhet, Rupendehi, Banke. The exact monetary loss in these incidents is not available.

(c) and (d) Such incidents are caused by miscreants. Cases involving safety and security of Indian citizens are taken up by the Government of India with the Government of Nepal at various levels. The Indian Embassy in Nepal operates a 24x7 hotline for consular assistance. The Embassy liaises with local authorities in dealing with these incidents and the local authorities extend requisite cooperation.

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.