

prisoners in each other's custody and consider their early release and repatriation. It was, *inter alia*, proposed that a team of medical experts could be allowed to visit the mentally unsound prisoners with a view to facilitate their nationality verification and subsequent repatriation. The External Affairs Minister also suggested revival of the Joint Judicial Committee which looked into the issues of fishermen and prisoners in each other's custody and had last met in October, 2013.

The Government of Pakistan, on 7 March, 2018, responded positively to the suggestion.

Contribution to UN Peace Keeping Missions

4340. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has enhanced its contribution of forces to UN Peace Keeping Missions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has given any such commitment to United Nations Organisations (UNO); and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) to (d) India is one of the largest cumulative contributor of UN Peacekeeping personnel in the world. According to United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations, as on 28th February, 2018, a total of approximately 6,712 Indian peacekeeping personnel are deployed in 9 UN peacekeeping missions including MONUSCO (Democratic Republic of the Congo), UNMISS (South Sudan), UNIFIL (Lebanon), MINUJUSTH (Haiti), UNDOF (Golan Heights), UNFICYP (Cyprus), UNISFA (Abyei), MINURSO (Western Sahara) and UNTSO (Middle East). The professionalism and dedication of our peacekeepers have been highly appreciated internationally.

India stands committed to continue contributing to UN peace keeping missions for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Diplomatic spat between India and Pakistan

4341. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Pakistan are in the middle of a major