

Bilateral discussion with French President

1605. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister had a bilateral discussion with French President on the sidelines of G-20 Summit;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether common front against terrorist financing and cooperation in maritime security, etc., were discussed; and

(d) if so, the details of the response of the French Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) Yes.

(b) Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi had a brief bilateral meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron, on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit in Buenos Aires.

(c) and (d) India and France are strategic partners and have a strong, multifaceted relationship. The two leaders during their interaction at the G20 sidelines discussed a wide range of issues including maritime security and enhancing cooperation in combating terror financing. Both leaders reiterated their strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations including cross-border terrorism and affirmed that terrorism cannot be justified on any grounds and it should not be associated with any religion, creed, nationality and ethnicity.

Construction of deepwater port in Myanmar by China

1606. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that China is constructing Kyaukpyu Deepwater Port in Myanmar apart from proposing for Kra Canal in Thailand;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has taken note of its serious concern to India's coastal security and to rights of the country over the Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) to (c) Government has seen reports in this regard.

Government keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's security and takes all necessary measures to safeguard it.

Indian citizens in jails abroad

1607. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian missions abroad have the details and the number of Indian citizens in jails during 2014-15 to 2017-18; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) The number of Indian nationals in prisons in foreign countries is dynamic and keeps changing. As per information available with the Ministry through our Missions/Posts, 8445 Indian nationals are currently in jails in foreign countries. Details are given in Statement (*See* below).

(b) Our Missions and Posts abroad extend all possible help and assistance to the imprisoned Indian nationals including when they are detained by local police/immigration authorities or put in prisons for violation of local laws. After confirmation of nationality of such persons, our Missions and Posts extend all possible consular services and also facilitate their repatriation to India by issuing them necessary travel documents. They also make regular visits to local jails and detention centers to ascertain the condition of Indian nationals lodged there and provide requisite help and support. Missions and Posts also maintain a local panel of lawyers where Indian community is in sizable numbers. Legal assistance is also available to Indian nationals in prisons abroad through the Indian Community Welfare Fund.

Statement

Details of Indian nationals currently in jails in foreign countries

Sl. No.	Country	The number of Indians nationals currently in foreign jails
1	2	3
1.	Armenia	10
2.	Australia	71
3.	Austria	5
4.	Azerbaijan	4