

for United Nations Security Council (UNSC) non-permanent seat of the Asia-Pacific Group (APG) for the term 2021-22. India's candidature to UNSC non-permanent seat for 2021-22 term was endorsed by the 55-member APG in June, 2019. As many as 44 countries from APG made statements supporting India's candidature, and no country opposed our candidature. The elections for UNSC non-permanent seats for the term 2021-22 will be held in June, 2020 in New York.

(c) and (d) In the past, India has been elected to the UNSC as non-permanent member seven times during the terms: 1950-51, 1967-68, 1972-73, 1977-78, 1984-85, 1991-92 and 2011-12.

Meeting with US Secretary of State in Delhi

2895. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a meeting was held with US Secretary of State in Delhi recently;
- (b) if so, the details of issues which came for discussion in the meeting;
- (c) the details of bilateral issues discussed and the views exchanged between the two Ministers to resolve them; and
- (d) whether H1B visa issue was also discussed and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) to (c) Yes. The U.S. Secretary of State, Michael R. Pompeo, met External Affairs Minister on 26 June, 2019, during his visit to India. They exchanged views on various bilateral, regional, and global issues of topical significance and common interest. They explored bilateral cooperation in the fields of counter-terrorism, defence, energy, trade and investment, and people-to-people ties.

(d) Issues related to the H-1B visa programme were discussed in context of people-to-people exchanges, and the contributions of the Indian diaspora and PIOs to the U.S. society and economy.

Meetings in G-20 summit

2896. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI RAJMANI PATEL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the countries with which the Indian Prime Minister has held a dialogue during G-20 summit held recently in Japan;

- (b) the terms of reference of the dialogues along with the results thereof; and
- (c) whether the emerging and other issues have also been discussed with heads of the respective countries and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) The 14th G-20 Summit was held in Osaka, Japan on 28-29 June, 2019. Prime Minister led the Indian delegation during the Summit and met the Leaders of various countries who attended the Summit. G-20 members who attended the Summit, apart from India, were Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, People's Republic of China, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Russia, South Africa, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States and European Union. Apart from the G-20 members, Leaders of several other countries were also invited to the Summit and participated in different programmes. Prime Minister interacted with Leaders who attended the G-20 Summit.

(b) and (c) Prime Minister had several engagements during the G-20 Summit in Osaka. He attended the programmes for the Leaders during the G-20 Summit, following which the G-20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration was issued. Prime Minister also participated in several bilateral meetings with Leaders who attended the Summit. During his meetings with various world Leaders, issues of mutual interest including areas that were the focus of G-20 Summit were discussed. On the margins of the G-20 Summit he also attended two trilateral meetings, with Leaders of RIC (Russia, India, China) and JAI (Japan, America, India) countries and participated in the BRICS Leaders' Informal Meeting.

Indians languishing in foreign jails

2897. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA:

SHRI VEER SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that a large number of Indians are languishing in jails of various countries including Pakistan and Gulf countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, country-wise;
- (c) the types of assistance provided to them; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by Government to ensure release of such prisoners and their safe passage to the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) and (b) As per the information available with