

- (b) if so, the nature of communication sent;
- (c) the nature of violations committed by Pakistan by lending such financial support to Kashmiri separatists;
- (d) the response of Government of Pakistan to such communications; and
- (e) if no communications has been sent, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) to (e) The Government has, through diplomatic channels, persistently taken up with Pakistan, the issue of cross-border terrorism, including funding of secessionist and terrorist activities in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistan has been asked to abide by its commitment to not allow any territory under its control to be used for terrorism against India in any manner and take credible, verifiable and irreversible steps in the matter. Pakistan is yet to demonstrate such steps.

India-UAE relations

3700. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the current status of India-UAE relations;
- (b) whether the meeting with Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed would result in a change in the relations between the two nations;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of plans for action in the international sphere if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) to (c) India-UAE bilateral relations are deep rooted in age-old trade and cultural links and nourished by people to people contacts. In the last five years, with intensive high-level engagements, the relationship has been elevated to a 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership'. UAE is India's third largest trading partner and fourth largest energy supplier. UAE is the first foreign country to participate in the India's 'Strategic Petroleum Reserves'.

His Highness Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed, Foreign Minister of the UAE paid an official visit on 7-9 July, 2019 to India. During the visit he called on Prime Minister and

held bilateral meeting with External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar. The visit provided an opportunity to both sides to constructively build on the vision of the comprehensive strategic partnership and to broaden cooperation in various sectors of mutual interest.

(d) India-UAE expressed interest in South-South Cooperation in February, 2016. An MoU for cooperation between India and the UAE for cooperation in developmental projects in Africa was signed in December, 2018.

Vacancies in government schools

3701. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has asked all the educational institutions such as Kendriya Vidyalayas, Navodaya Vidyalayas, National Institute of Open Schooling and Central Board of Secondary Education, to fill up the vacancies quickly;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that many schools under the Ministry are running with teachers on contract basis to meet the shortage of teachers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The organizations functioning under the Ministry of Human Resource Development such as Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS), Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS), National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) and Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) have been advised to fill up their vacancies in order to increase quality and efficiency.

(c) Teachers are also engaged on contractual basis in the Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) and Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) for temporary durations to ensure that the teaching learning process is not hampered.

(d) The details of the teachers engaged on contract basis in the KVs and JNVs during the last academic year 2018-19 are as under:—

Name of Post	KVs	JNVs
Post Graduate Teachers	1785	609
Trained Graduate Teachers	3436	710