

Visit of Minister to Bhutan

653. SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether he has pledged to work in cooperation on economic development and hydro-power between India and Bhutan; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the details of agreements/MoUs exchanged between the two countries during his visit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) and (b) External Affairs Minister visited Bhutan on 7-8 June, 2019. This was his first visit abroad as the External Affairs Minister and reflects the importance that India attaches to its bilateral relationship with Bhutan, a close friend and neighbour. During the visit, the Minister held discussions with Bhutan's leadership on various aspects of our bilateral partnership including economic development and hydro-power co-operation. Both sides agreed to work together to further strengthen our bilateral co-operation in diverse sectors. No Agreements/MoUs were signed during the visit.

Transportation of mortal remains from abroad

654. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of standing instructions issued regarding repatriation of mortal remains from abroad;
- (b) the number of such cases of repatriation that has taken place during the last three years; and
- (c) whether there is any financial angle involved in such repatriation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) For the purpose of bringing back the mortal remains of an Indian national from abroad, registration of death at the Indian Mission/Post concerned is necessary, for which normally the following documents are required:

- Medical report/death certificate issued from the hospital.
- Copy of detailed police report (with English translation, if report is in some other language), in case of accidental or unnatural death.