

as well as other cities of Hubei Province in China in view of the continuing lock down of the Hubei Province.

To avoid the risk of spread of Coronavirus, all the persons evacuated from China have to undergo quarantine for 14 days at special facilities created by Indian Army in Manesar and by Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) in Chhawla Camp. The first and second group of evacuees, who arrived in India on February 1 and February 2 have completed the quarantine and left the facilities.

Steps for strengthening of SAARC forum

1653. SHRI AHAMED HASSAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has initiated any measure to strengthen the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) forum, as India being a member country;

(b) whether there is deterioration of relationship between SAARC member countries due to the proposed CAA and NRC; and

(c) if so, what steps the Ministry is initiating to improve the relationship between the SAARC member countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) SAARC, set up as an organization to build a connected and integrated South Asia, aims at promoting the development and progress of all countries in the region. India continues to support various initiatives to achieve closer cooperation in diverse areas. However, regional cooperation is adversely affected due to continued support to cross-border terrorism and interference in the internal affairs of Member States by one country.

(b) These issues pertain to internal affairs of India.

(c) Does not arise.

Visit of President of the US

1654. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the issues that were discussed in the meetings with the US President during his recent visit to India, whether any agreement was signed, if so, the details thereof;