

(b) if so, the full facts and details of the High Commission's sponsorship posters and steps taken to make corrections for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Stone pelting at Nankana Sahib Gurudwara in Pakistan

539. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently an incident of stone pelting at holy Nankana Sahib Gurudwara in Pakistan came to light which hurt the religious feelings in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what diplomatic and other actions Government has taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) to (c) Following the reports of vandalism and desecration of the holy Gurudwara at Sri Nankana Sahib in Pakistan on 3 January 2020, the Government strongly condemned the reprehensible action. Pakistan's *Charged' Affaires* in New Delhi was summoned and India's strong protest was lodged against the wanton acts of vandalism and desecration of the holy Gurdwara Sri Janam Asthan at Nankana Sahib, Pakistan. India also shared strong concerns at the continued persecution of religious and ethnic minorities in Pakistan. Government of Pakistan was also called upon to ensure safety, security and welfare of the members of the minority communities in Pakistan, including their places of worship, and take immediate measures to expeditiously bring the perpetrators of such despicable and heinous acts to justice.

Attack on Nankana Sahib Gurudwara

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Nankana Sahib Gurudwara was under attack in Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details of the same and action taken against the attackers by Pakistan Government; and

(c) whether Pakistan Government has assured safety of the Indian pilgrims visiting Nankana Sahib and other Hindu/Sikh pilgrimage spots in Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) to (c) Following the reports of vandalism and desecration of the holy Gurudwara at Sri Nankana Sahib in Pakistan on 3 January 2020, the Government strongly condemned the reprehensible action. Pakistan's Charged' Affaires in New Delhi was summoned and India's strong protest was lodged against the wanton acts of vandalism and desecration of the holy Gurudwara Sri Janam Asthan at Nankana Sahib, Pakistan. India also shared strong concerns at the continued persecution of religious and ethnic minorities in Pakistan. Government of Pakistan was also called upon to ensure safety, security and welfare of the members of the minority communities in Pakistan, including their places of worship, and take immediate measures to expeditiously bring the perpetrators of such despicable and heinous acts to justice. Reports in Pakistan media stated that the prime accused in the matter was arrested subsequently.

Repatriation of Indians from neighbouring countries

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

(a) whether Government has reported that 292 Indians including civilians and fishermen are in the custody of Pakistan, if so, the details of the action taken by Government to repatriate these persons; and

(b) the details of effort and the number of Indian citizens reported in the custody of other neighbouring countries of India except Pakistan till date and the details of action taken to repatriate them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) As per available information, 275 Indians, including fishermen, are presently believed to be in Pakistan's custody. However, as per the lists shared on 1 January 2020, Pakistan has acknowledged the custody of 262 of them. In addition, there is the issue of 83 missing Indian defence personnel, including Prisoners of war, whose custody has not been acknowledged by Pakistan, so far.

The Government, upon receipt of reports of apprehension of Indian citizens and fishermen, immediately takes up the matter with Pakistan through diplomatic channels and seeks consular access and their early release and repatriation. Government's