

[24 July, 2003]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) whether Government have accepted the sovereignty of China over Tibet; and

(c) whether our border problem with China is expected to be solved within a shorter time frame?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) During Prime Minister's visit to China in June 2003, a Declaration on Principles for Relations and Comprehensive Cooperation between India and China was signed which sets out the shared perspectives on the future development of bilateral relationship.

(b) These is no change in India's position on Tibet.

(c) In the Declaration issued on June 23, India and China have reiterated their readiness to seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution of the boundary question through consultations on an equal footing. It has been agreed that pending an ultimate solution, the two countries work together to maintain peace and tranquility in their border areas, and continue to implement the agreements signed for this purpose, including the clarification of the Line of Actual Control. India and China have also agreed to each appoint Special Representative to explore from the political perspective of the overall bilateral relationship the framework of a boundary settlement.

Invitation to Israeli PM to Visit India

494. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an invitation has been extended to the Israeli PM to visit India;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of the date the invitation was extended;

(c) whether it is also a fact that India's National Security Advisor proposed a US-Israel-India alliance;

(d) if so, whether there is any shift from Government stand on West Asia; and

(e) the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Yes.

(b) A formal invitation for an India visit was extended to Prime Minister of Israel on February 4, 2003.

(c) No.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

India's stand on Tibet

495. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has changed its stand that the Autonomous Region of Tibet is now recognised as a part of People's Republic of China;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, what stand was taken by India during the Prime Minister's recent visit to China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) There is no change in India's position on Tibet.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In the Declaration on Principle for Relations and Comprehensive Cooperation signed by the two Prime Ministers on June 23, 2003, it is stated that "the Indian side recognizes that the Tibet Autonomous Region is part of the territory of the People's Republic of China".

Changes in VISA Rules by U.S.A.

496. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state: