

(b) to (e) The concerned firm has been investigated for violating domestic export control regulations including the Customs Act 1962 and the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act 1992. After due investigation, the importer-exporter code number of the firm was suspended on August 22, 2002 for violation of provisions of the EXIM Policy 1997-2002. Based on these investigations, courts have taken cognisance in certain cases, which are pending final disposal.

Missing Indians in UAE

1706. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently received representations on missing persons working in United Arab Emirates;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for delay in finding such persons;

(d) whether it is a fact that Indian Embassy is slow in activating itself to search and locate the missing persons; and

(e) what steps Government are taking to expedite enquiries and action on missing persons, particularly Indian women workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) During the current year, eight complaints were received by our Embassy in Abu Dhabi, of which four cases have been solved. In the remaining four cases a response is pending from the U.A.E. Foreign Office/sponsors, Our Consulate in Dubai received four such complaints. These complaints have been referred to the local authorities. The responses are awaited.

(c) The delay is mainly due to the lack of complete details (particularly addresses etc.) of the missing persons. In some cases, the missing person deliberately change their personal particulars or, remain incommunicado for personal reasons.

(d) No. Prompt action is taken in respect of each such complaint.

(e) In case the address, telephone number, details of sponsor etc. are known, action is initiated to make enquiries directly. Otherwise, a request is made to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of the United Arab Emirates for their assistance. The same procedure is followed in case of women workers.

Meeting with Muslim Leaders hosted by American Embassy

1707. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the American Embassy recently hosted a meeting in Delhi with prominent Muslim Leaders;
- (b) whether Government's formal permission was sought for the meeting;
- (c) whether any Government's representative was invited in the meeting; and
- (d) whether Government are in possession of its deliberations and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) Permission is not required for such meetings under the international conventions governing diplomatic practices.

(c) and (d) No.

Foreign diplomats' visit to J and K during Assembly Election

1708. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether diplomats based in New Delhi from various countries visited Jammu and Kashmir to witness the Assembly election in militancy torn States;
- (b) if so, the number of diplomats with names of the countries who visited there;
- (c) whether they have given any reports/impressions on polling/ elections in the State; and
- (d) if so, the details in this regard?