

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to get them released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) As per available information, 32 Indian fishermen and 7 fishing boats were apprehended by Pakistan Maritime Security Agency on 6th March, 2003. Government have taken up the issue of their early release and repatriation with the Government of Pakistan through diplomatic channels. As a result, they have been provided consular access.

Deportation of Indian criminals from Dubai

3024. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have handed over a list of Indian criminals seeking refuge in Emirates in January, 2003;

(b) if so, the details of the criminals sought to be deported from Dubai;

(c) whether India has extradition treaty with UAE; and

(d) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) and (b) Yes. The alleged criminals are wanted in connection with terrorist offences, economic offences and organised crime.

(a) Yes.

(b) Does not arise.

People stranded on Indo-Bangladesh Border

3025. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have alerted Bangladesh on the 3rd February, 2003 on a possible humanitarian crisis if it refuses more

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than 200 people stranded in zero area along Indo-Bangladesh border since the 31st January, 2003; .and

(b) if so, their reaction thereto?

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

(b) Our serious concern over the 213 Bangladeshi nationals stranded along the zero line was conveyed to the Bangladesh High Commissioner on 3rd February, 2003. The External Affairs Minister also discussed the matter with the bangladesh Foreign Minister on 5th February, 2003 on telephone. Following these diplomatic efforts, the Bangladesh authorities allowed the 213 Bangladeshi nationals stranded along the zero line to reenter their territory on the night of 5th February, 2003.

Setting up of a crisis management group on Iraq war

3026. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(c) whether Government have set up a crisis management group to deal with the evolving situation in Iraq specifically its implications for Indian nationals living in the Gulf:

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Indians living in Iraq and other Gulf countries have been given protection by various Indian High Commissions in those countries; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) to (b) An Inter-ministerial Crisis Management Committee has been set up in the Ministry of External Affairs to closely monitor the impact of the war in Iraq on India and the Indian community in the Gulf countries. The committee has been meeting regularly since 17th March.