

8. Sir S. S. Ramphal, (Guyana—currently resident in UK)

9. Dato Seri S. Samy Vellu, (Malaysia)

10. Mr. Ujjal Dosanjh, (Canada)

(c) The High Level Committee headed by Dr. L.M. Singhvi recommended that these awards may be conferred every year on NRIs and PIOs who have made outstanding contributions towards fostering better understanding abroad of India and its civilization; for persons among them two have extended their support to India's causes and concerns; and those who have advanced her interests internationally. The awards may also be given for significant contributions or service to the Indian Diaspora. Further, the award may carry a 'sanad' and a citation.

Review of nuclear defence policy

252. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed its nuclear defence policy and strategy of no-first use of nuclear weapons in the light of Pak-President's New Year Eve (2003) outbursts threatening use of atomic weapons as a counter to conventional war by India, including any violation of the Line of Control in Kashmir by Indian forces; and

(b) if so, Government's decision in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Government reviewed on January 4, 2003 the operationalization of India's Nuclear Doctrine and made public information regarding the nuclear doctrine and operational arrangements governing India's nuclear assets including the No-First Use posture i.e., nuclear weapons will only be used in retaliation against a nuclear attack on Indian territory or on Indian forces anywhere.

Evacuation of Indians during US-Iraq war

253. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have instructed its Missions to make

[20 February, 2003]

RAJYA SABHA

necessary emergency arrangements to evacuate Indian nationals from Iraq and its neighbouring countries in case of US-Iraq war; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The Indian community in Iraq at present comprises some 50 persons. They have been advised to keep their travel documents ready for exit through Jordan, Syria or Iran at short notice. While a possible US-Iraq war is unlikely to affect the large India's communities in the neighbouring countries of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, contingency plans have been made to evacuate India's nationals as necessary.

Global panel of terrorism hit countries

254. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
DR. ARBRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has recently proposed setting up of a global panel of countries most affected by terrorism for sharing and devising methods to tackle the menace at a meeting of Interpol officials from various countries based in Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) A suggestion in this regard was mooted in a meeting of the Interpol at the working level. However, no definitive proposal has been made by the Government in this regard.

Foreign students registration system in U.S.A.

255. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian students, who wish to go to U.S.A. after January 30, 2003, have to go through the new Foreign Students Registration System;