

occurrence of such incident in the sea-waters adjoining India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R.BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) to (c) Oil spills can occur anywhere in the ocean due to accidents/grounding of ships, etc. Safe navigation and incorporation of safety measures in the ship construction such a double bottom hull etc. are the major factors for preventing such oil spills. Considering this the Government are implementing National Oil Spill Contingency Plan for combating oil spill disaster in the Indian Territorial waters and the Exclusive Economic Zone through the Coast Guard under the Ministry of Defence. The major objectives of the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan inter-alia include: (a) to develop appropriate and effective systems for the detection and reporting of spillage of oil or of incidents related to operations of shipping which could result in such spillage, (b) to ensure prompt response to either prevent pollution or restrict in spread of contaminants, (c) to ensure that adequate protection is provided for the public health and welfare and the marine environment, (d) to ensure that the appropriate response techniques are used to clean up the pollutants and that disposal of recovered material is carried out in an environmentally acceptable manner. In the event of any oil spill, a team of scientists drawn from the National Research Laboratories such as National Institute of oceanography, Fishery Survey of India, Zoological Survey of India, Botanical Survey of India and Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, visit the incident site for making an on-the-spot assessment of the impact of oil spill on the marine environment, fauna and flora.

Longer Stay Visa

162. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA:

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and U.S.A. plan to have a ten year validity visa;

(b) if so, whether this decision is likely to encourage frequent visits to promote business and tourism;

(c) whether any agreement in this regard has since been reached and;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMALA SINHA): (a) to (d) The proposal to have ten year validity visas, on reciprocal basis, between India and the United States of America, is under Government's active consideration.

Non-recognition of Dental Degrees by Foreign Universities

163. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:

SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the medical and dental degrees conferred by the Indian Universities are not being recognised by Australian and British Universities for admission to post-graduate courses;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are considering ways and means to resolve it; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) There is no such report.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Indo-Pak Foreign Secretary Level Talks

164. PROF. P.J. KURIAN:

SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA:

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN:

SHRI P. NAMGYAL:

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:

SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI:

SHRI B.L. SHANKAR:

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI:

SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE:

SHRI E. AHMED:

SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA:

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS:

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR:

SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:

SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR:

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV:

SHRI P.C.THOMAS:

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: