

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3376

ANSWERED ON:23.08.2011

MEETING OF IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES

Majhi Shri Pradeep Kumar;Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a meeting of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Immigration Authorities was held recently in Bhutan;
- (b) if so, whether a delegation from India had also participated;
- (c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the issues discussed in the meeting;
- (d) whether Indian delegates have also drawn the attention of Pakistan regarding the use of their territory/Pak occupied Kashmir against India; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Pakistan in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) &(b): Yes, Madam.

(c): The fourth meeting of SAARC Immigration Authorities was held on 21st July, 2011 at Thimphu, Bhutan. The issues discussed at this meeting included measures to implement the SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme, tentative dates to begin implementing the scheme, measures to ensure that the scheme is managed effectively and the recommendations of the Inter-Governmental Expert Group Meeting on the SAARC Natural Disaster Rapid Response Mechanism held in Male on 25th and 26th May, 2011 related to facilitation of visa. This meeting was followed by the meeting of the SAARC Interior/Home Secretaries on 22.7.2011 and the SAARC Interior/ Home Ministers on 23.7.2011.

(d) & (e): During his meeting with his Pakistani counterpart, the Home Minister apprised him that there were reports of training camps for terrorists in Pakistan, and attempts at infiltration by terrorists into India from the territory under Pakistan's control were continuing and that it was incumbent upon the Government of Pakistan to take action against the terrorist camps, and to stop such attempts at infiltration.