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Title: Regarding opening Indian Consulate in Georgia.

SHRIMATI HEMAMALINI (MATHURA): Thank you, hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir for giving me this opportunity to raise an urgent and important matter. My subject is about establishing an Indian Consulate in Georgia.

I recently visited this beautiful country to attend a conference on the subject 'Women and Art for Economic Development' on the invitation of the Ambassador to European Council. I met many eminent personalities there from various fields. They are very fond of Indian art and culture; they are very fond of Bollywood films and artists; and they look up at the Indians with lots of respect. I met a lot of Indian people also. There are so many Indian tourists also who visit Georgia. There are also Indians who are settled down there like students, businessmen and some artists.

Sir, their only problem is that since there is no Indian Consulate in Georgia, for small, small documents relating to trade and tourists, they have to go all the way to Armenia and Azerbaijan as the Indian Embassies are there. So, they requested me to establish an Indian Consulate in Georgia as it would help them. A trade exchange between India and Georgia has registered an impressive growth in the last few years. There are many possibilities of cooperation between India and Georgia in various fields especially industrial, education and cultural sector.

So, it would be very nice if we can establish an Indian Consulate in Georgia. I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister of External Affairs to consider setting up an Indian Consulate in Georgia at the earliest. Thank you so much.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shrimati Hemamalini.