

Indo-China role in International Arena

2921. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a view has been expressed that as the two largest developing countries India and China have the obligation to work more actively to play their due part in the international arena and cooperate in a wide range of international affairs;

(b) whether Chinese leader Li Peng has asserted recently that China and India are required by the reality of the 21st Century to take their relationship to a new high and global challenges should be met by countries working together; and

(c) if so, what sincere steps are being taken to attain the said objectives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) to (c) During his recent visit to India, Mr. Li Peng, Chairman of the National Peoples Congress, described the primary objective of his visit as the promotion of friendship and cooperation with India. He further stated that the common ground between our two countries far outweighs the differences.

Prime Minister and other leaders reiterated Government's commitment to developing friendly and good-neighbourly relations with China on the basis on Panchsheel and mutual sensitivity to each other's concerns. This principled approach is based on the premise that good neighbourly relations between our two countries are to mutual benefit.