

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) Under the unilateral peace initiative announced by Prime Minister on 19th November 2000, security forces have been instructed not to initiate combat operations against militants in Jammu & Kashmir. Government have also expressed their desire to hold talks with all those who abjure violence, making it equally clear that those who continue to indulge in violence will be dealt with effectively. As per available figures between 28.11.2000 and 19.3.2001 (i.e, 112 days), 158 members of the Security Forces and 332 civilians have been killed.

(b) and (c) The State of Jammu & Kashmir is an integral part of the Indian Union. A part of the territory of the State is under the forcible and illegal occupation by Pakistan. Under the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration, which are the cornerstones of India-Pakistan relations, both countries are committed to work towards the establishment of good neighbourly relations and resolve all issues peacefully through direct bilateral discussions.

As an initiator of dialogue India is committed to the resumption of the Composite Dialogue. An appropriate environment is an obvious pre-requisite for a meaningful dialogue. The cessation of cross border terrorism and the abandonment of hostile propaganda are necessary ingredients of such an environment. Pakistan's continued sponsorship of cross border terrorism and its vicious anti-India propaganda demonstrate its hostile and negative policies towards India.

Review at 1950 Indo-Nepal Treaty

4458. SHRI K. K. BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Nepal has been asking for the renewal of Indo-Nepal Treaty of 1950;

(b) if so, whether Government have reviewed the 1950 Indo-Nepal Treaty/replacement reflecting the current realities;

(c) if so, the steps contemplated by Government in this regard;

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(d) whether many countries are using Nepal as a base to create terrorism in India;

(e) whether the review of 1950 Treaty would check the bases of anti-India terrorists groups in Nepal; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) to (c) His Majesty's Government of Nepal had put forth a proposal to discuss and review the 1950 Treaty during the visit of Prime Minister Man Mohan Adhikary of Nepal to India in 1994. It was agreed that the Foreign Secretaries of the two countries could discuss issues pertaining to the Treaty, as part of their bilateral consultations. During the visit of the Prime Minister of Nepal, Shri G. P. Koirala, to India in July/August 2000, the two sides agreed that the Foreign Secretaries of India and Nepal would continue their review of all issues pertaining to the 1950 Treaty. India-Nepal Foreign Secretary Level Talks were held on January 30 and 31, 2001 in Delhi. Both sides had a useful exchange of views on issues relating to the India-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship as directed by the two Prime Ministers. They discussed various aspects of the Treaty in a candid and open manner and agreed to continue their discussions keeping in mind the perceptions, concerns and interests of both sides and their close and friendly relations.

(d) to (f) The Government of India has been aware and concerned about ISI of Pakistan misusing the Nepal's territory and the open India-Nepal border for activities inimical to India's interest.

Measures have been taken to enhance co-operation with Nepal, particularly with regard to implementing effective border management. The concerned agencies of the two Government remain in regular touch to co-ordinate efforts to tackle this problem. There are also bilateral institutional mechanisms, such as the joint Working Group on Border Management and Home Secretary level talks, which have been evolved to specifically develop co-operation on security matters and to address these concerns. In pursuance of the

decisions taken in these meetings, both sides have agreed to jointly co-ordinate measures to counter ISI activities directed against India. On their part, the Government of Nepal have assured that their territory would not be used for activities inimical to India's interest and have been extending their co-operation to the Government of India in this regard.

Indo-US Cooperation

4459. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that India and USA have recently signed an agreement for mutual cooperation;
- (b) if so, the details of the issues discussed with the US counterpart and the US President; and
- (c) to what extent his trip to USA was successful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) No, Madam.

(b) and (c) During the recent visit of External Affairs Minister and Raksha Mantri to the United States from April 5-7, 2001, he held fruitful discussions with the new U.S. Administration including the Secretary of State, the Defence Secretary and the National Security Adviser. He also had the opportunity of meeting the U.S. President. During the discussions, both sides reaffirmed their commitment to maintain the momentum in Indo-U.S. relations and to impart to it greater depth and content. The visit of the Minister was also successful in confirming the broad-based nature of Indo-U.S. relations as also the Dialogue Architecture that had been put in place in the year 2000.

Demolition of statues Buddha

4460. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Taliban Militia in Afghanistan has fully