

High Level Meeting with Nepal

612. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level meeting between Indian foreign Secretary and Prime Minister of Nepal was held on 20th June, 2009 at Kathmandu;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held between Indian Foreign Secretary and Prime Minister of Nepal and outcome thereof;

(c) whether any discussion was held on Maoists and border issues; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (d) Foreign Secretary visited Nepal on June 20-21, 2009. He called on the Prime Minister of Nepal, the President, some members of the new Cabinet, and leaders from a wide cross section of political parties. In these meetings, he exchanged views on future development and strengthening of relations between the two countries and reviewed bilateral cooperation. He reiterated India's commitment to strengthen bilateral ties and to assist the government and the people of Nepal in their transition to multi-party democracy and in their peace process in a manner and to the extent Nepal would like us to. During official discussions, both sides agreed on the need for early signing of the boundary strip-maps and setting up local level coordination mechanism for border management, in addition to existing mechanisms.

Chinese reaction over loan for Arunachal Pradesh

613. SHRI M. V. MYSURA REDDY:

SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China has refused to give its consent for US \$2.9 billion loan for India under India Development Plan unless and until India declare that the money is not meant for projects in Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that China is insisting for declaring Arunachal Pradesh as a 'disputed territory'; and

(c) if so, the diplomatic and other efforts made by his Ministry to persuade US, Japan and South Korea to overrule Chinese demand?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (c) China did not endorse the Country Partnership Strategy [CPS] 2009-12 for India in the Board of the Asian Development Bank [ADB] on the ground that the proposed India CPS involved technical assistance funding for the Flood and River Erosion Management Project in Arunachal Pradesh which China claims is its territory. Government has clearly conveyed to the Chinese side that Arunachal Pradesh is an integral part of India. Government has also told the ADB and all member countries of the ADB which have Executive Directors on its Board, including the US, Japan, Australia, Canada, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Germany and Italy that (i) the CPS is not a political

document and it does not make any judgment as to the legal or other status of any territories; and (ii) China's objection on political grounds is a clear violation of the ADB's Charter which prohibits the Bank from evaluating any proposal on grounds other than economic.

India's CPS was discussed in the Meeting of the Board of Executive Directors of the ADB on 15 June 2009, and all member countries except China supported the document.

Declaring Pakistan as Terrorist State

614. SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in 1992 the US Secretary of State, James Baker, had given warning to Pakistan to rein in ISI and Army otherwise it would have no other option but to declare Pakistan as a terrorism sponsoring State;

(b) whether it is a fact that after the recent Mumbai attacks the US Administration is seriously thinking of declaring Pakistan as a Terrorist State and placing it in the US Government's State Sponsors of Terrorism List; and

(c) if so, the efforts India is making, in cooperation with other countries of the world, to put pressure on US to declare Pakistan as a Terrorist State?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) Government is aware that Mr. Zahid Hussain in his book "Frontline Pakistan : the struggle with militant Islam" has stated that "in 1992 the US Secretary of State, James Baker, had given warning to Pakistan to rein in the ISI and Army otherwise it would have no other option but to impose package of sanctions against Pakistan."

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

Problems of Sikhs in Pakistan

615. SARDAR TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Sikhs those were compelled to pay Jazia in different States of Pakistan during the recent trouble;

(b) the total amount paid by the Sikhs as Jazia;

(c) the number of Sikhs those were ousted from their ancestral places; and

(d) the steps Government of India has taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (c) The number so affected is not known.

(d) On seeing reports about Sikh families in Pakistan being driven out of their homes and being subject to Jazia and other such impositions, the Government of India has taken up the matter with the Government of Pakistan.