

- (a) whether Government had signed Ganga Water Treaty with Bangladesh;
- (b) if so, whether the issue of Tipaimukh dam project remain unresolved with Bangladesh;
- (c) if so, whether Government proposes to have bilateral discussions with Bangladesh and to resolve the Tipaimukh dam project; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) Yes. India and Bangladesh signed a treaty on sharing of the Ganga Waters at Farakka on 12th December, 1996.

(b) to (d) Government of India has shared information on the Tipaimukh Dam Project with the Government of Bangladesh. The Government has also invited a Bangladesh Parliamentary Delegation to visit India in this connection.

Stockpile of nuclear weapons by Pakistan

2142. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that Pakistan has been increasing its stockpile of nuclear weapons and crossing its minimum deterrent threshold;
- (b) if so, the reaction of Government on such reports of Pakistan;
- (c) whether stockpiling of nuclear weapons by Pakistan is causing grave concern for India; and
- (d) if so, the preventive/counter steps Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) Yes. Government has seen reports in the public domain that Pakistan is enhancing its nuclear weapons production capacity.

(b) to (d) Government monitors all such developments which have a bearing on national security and is committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard the nation's security.

New treaty with Nepal

2143. MS. MABEL REBELLO:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether despite the current political crisis in Nepal, India and its Himalayan neighbours are considering to review their 60 years old trade treaty as India Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship, 1950;

- (b) if so, whether both countries are willing to talk and discuss;
- (c) if so, whether India is considering to improve its relations with Nepal;
- (d) if so, the total investment of the country in Nepal in regard to education, health and tourism; and
- (e) if so, the reaction of Nepal Government in signing a new treaty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a), (b) and (e) The existing Trade Treaty between India and Nepal was signed in 1991 and subsequently amended in 1996 and 2002. The two sides are currently reviewing the Trade Treaty to further boost bilateral trade.

During the visit of the former Prime Minister of Nepal to India in September 2008, both sides agreed to review, adjust and update the 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship and other agreements while giving due recognition to the special features of the bilateral relationship. It was agreed that a High-Level committee at the level of Foreign Secretaries would be set up for this purpose. There has been no further development in this matter.

(c) India and Nepal share close and friendly political, economic, cultural and social ties, which are unique and have stood the test of time. Our relations with Nepal will continue to be a matter of highest priority for India. During the visit of Foreign Secretary to Nepal on June 20-21, 2009, our commitment to support Nepal was reiterated to the new government of Nepal. Both sides also agreed to take the bilateral relations forward.

(d) Indian investment in Nepal in regard to health, education and tourism amounts to over Rs. 380 crore. In addition, GOI's economic cooperation programme in Nepal is broad based, and includes education and health sectors.

Discussion held with China

2144. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Indian and Chinese officials discussed host of issues related to expansion of defence, economic ties and trade;
- (b) if so, whether Chinese have expressed interest in the deepening economic ties with India by helping build infrastructure for 2010 Commonwealth Games also;
- (c) if so, the outcome of the discussions held and to what extent and both have agreed for extension of defence and economic ties;
- (d) whether any agreement was signed; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) to (e) Government officials of India and China have been regularly discussing the entire range of issues related to bilateral relations including economic