

(b) if so, the details of discussion held with his Pakistani counterpart and outcome thereof;

(c) whether the current status of Indo-Pak relations have been reviewed; and

(d) if so, to what extent Indo-Pak relations have been strengthened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) Yes.

(b) to (d) During the meeting the leaders reviewed the current status of India-Pakistan relations. The External Affairs Minister conveyed the sentiments of our Prime Minister that we stand ready to meet Pakistan more than half way to utilise and harness the potential that exists in India-Pakistan relation for mutual benefit while stressing on the need to address centrally the reasons for the stress in the relationship. The primary cause of this is the terrorist attacks on India, by elements based in Pakistan.

#### **Military infrastructure along LAC by China**

1374. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of massive buildup of military infrastructure all along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) by China:

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether Government has since taken any steps to counter the attempts of the Chinese Government on LAC; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) and (b) Government is aware that China is developing infrastructure in border regions opposite India in the Tibet and Xinjiang Autonomous Regions. This includes the Qinghai-Tibet Railway line, with a proposed extension upto Xigaze and Nyingchi, and development of road and airport facilities.

(c) and (d) Government continues to develop infrastructure in India's border area in order to meet our strategic and security requirements and to facilitate the economic development of these areas.

#### **Fishing rights in Katchatheevu Island**

1375. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the correct position *vis-a-vis* the fishing rights of the Indian fishermen, around the Katchatheevu Island; and

(b) whether Government can review and renegotiate the earlier agreements in order to protect the interests of the people and the rights of the fishermen in a changed context and time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) and (b) The Government of India considers its maritime boundary with Sri Lanka settled under the Agreements concluded with Sri Lanka in 1974 and 1976. Under the Agreements, the Island of Katchatheevu lies on the Sri Lankan side of the India-Sri Lanka International Maritime Boundary Line. Both these Agreements were subsequently laid before Parliament. Under the Agreement, Indian fishermen are allowed access to Katchatheevu Island for rest, for drying of nets and for the annual St. Anthony's festival. The right of access is not understood to cover fishing rights around the island to Indian fishermen. Keeping in mind the humanitarian and livelihood dimensions for fishermen, Government reached an understanding with the Sri Lankan Government on 26th October, 2008 to put in place practical arrangements to deal with bonafide Indian and Sri Lankan fishermen crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line.

#### **Pakistan's activities against India**

1376. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Pakistan has been using bilateral and multilateral civilian aid against India for various disruptive purposes;

(b) if so, whether Government took up the matter with US Government to apply benchmark that aid given by USA would not be used against India;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Pakistan forces violated ceasefire agreement and fired at Indian posts during the last one month to divert attention from its troubled areas; and

(e) if so, what is the guarantee that aid would not be used against India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) Government believes that credible action is required on Pakistan's part to deal with terrorist elements directing their energy to disrupt and destabilize our economy and polity.

(b) and (c) Government has conveyed its concerns to the Government of the United States regarding the risk of diversion of US aid by Pakistan towards acquisition of weapons for use against India.

(d) and (e) Since 1 June, 2009, there has been one cease fire violation on 3 June, 2009. Government will take such steps as are necessary to safeguard the country's interests.

#### **Solution to Tamil problem**

†1377. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has prepared any plan to explore a permanent solution to Tamil problems with Government of Sri Lanka and their rehabilitation;

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.