

- (b) if so, the details of the agenda of said discussions;
- (c) the details of the decisions finalized by both Foreign Secretaries;
- (d) the time by which such decisions would be implemented;
- (e) whether terrorists group have increased these activities after finalization of dates for diplomatic talks; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (d) Foreign Secretary level talks between India and Pakistan held on February 25, 2010 in New Delhi were aimed at reviewing India's bilateral relationship with Pakistan and to build trust and confidence between the two countries. During the meeting, which did not have a pre-determined agenda, the Indian delegation clearly conveyed India's concerns on the terrorism emanating from Pakistan and directed against India. Further information on terrorist threats and activities against India emanating from Pakistan was also handed over to the Pakistani side for investigation and appropriate action. Pakistan Foreign Secretary expressed the desire and determination of the Government of Pakistan to make all possible efforts for a successful conclusion of the Mumbai attack trial which is underway in Pakistan. He stated that Pakistan was determined not to allow its territory to be used for terrorist activity against any country, and said that the additional information provided by India on February 25, 2010 will be studied. Pakistan raised certain issues which were responded to appropriately, reiterating our national position on these issues. It was also decided to address urgent humanitarian matters.

(e) and (f) There was a terrorist blast in Pune on February 13, 2010 after finalisation of date for Foreign Secretary level talks and another attack on February 26, 2010 in Kabul on residential facilities used by, among others, Indian nationals.

Chinese encroachment beyond LAC

782. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that China has encroached beyond the 1962 Line of Actual Control (LAC) at places in Ladakh;
- (b) whether it is a fact that during the last six months Chinese Border patrol troops crossed the LAC more than 270 times;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that China had begun to build a railway line parallel to LAC from Lhasa to Shigatse in 2007-09 enabling China to have logistical and tactical advantage in the region; and
- (d) the effects and implications of the above said acts of China on India?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) No. China disputes the International Boundary between India and China. There is no commonly delineated Line of Actual Control (LAC) between the two countries. From time to time, on account of differences in

the perception of the LAC, situations have arisen on the ground that could have been avoided if we had a common perception of the LAC. There has been no increase in such incidents.

(c) and (d) Government has seen reports that China is planning to extend the Qinghai-Tibet Railway line, from Lhasa to Xigaze. Government is giving careful and special attention to the development of infrastructure in the border areas opposite China, in order to meet our strategic and security requirements and also to facilitate the economic development of these areas.

Chinese objection on construction of road

783. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China has objected to the ongoing construction of border roads in Ladakh area and the works have been stopped for want of support from Government of India and the State Government;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) in what manner Government proposes to tackle the situation?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (c) The civilian road construction project in Ladakh was being implemented under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA). Such construction in the proximity of the International Boundary (IB) or in the proximity of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) cannot be undertaken without approvals from the Central Government. In the absence of such approvals, work on the NREGA road in Ladakh was halted.

Foreign Secretary level talks with Pakistan

784. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) at whose initiative, our or Pakistan's, is the proposed Foreign Secretary level talks being organized; and

(b) whether Minister is aware that it is being perceived by Pakistan as a case of our blinking first?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) The initiative to invite the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan to India for talks was taken by the Government of India. The invitation to the Pakistan Foreign Secretary should be seen in the context of Government's desire to ensure communication between the two countries, to address the core concerns relating to terrorism directed against us from Pakistan, and pending humanitarian issues.