

(b) if so, the details thereof and the initiative taken by Government of India in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA) : (a) and (b) India is not only a neighbour of Afghanistan, but is also a major partner in its reconstruction and development. Our efforts towards restoring stability of Afghanistan, along with those of the international community, are important because instability and terrorism emanating from the neighbourhood is a threat to all countries in the region and beyond, including Russia. India believes that international cooperation, particularly with the neighbouring and regional countries is essential for peace, stability and development in Afghanistan.

Assessment of Chinese Diplomacy

1569.DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is assessing the Chinese diplomacy in and around India by developing ports and trade against Indian trade and commerce; and

(b) if so, the diplomatic efforts that have been taken to withstand such trade war?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA) : (a) and (b) India and China have established a Strategic and Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity. The two countries are both major developing countries of Asia and as Prime Minister has said on various occasions there is enough space for both countries to develop together. Government is aware that China is participating in infrastructure projects, including ports, in the countries of South Asia. Government keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's security and takes all necessary measures to safeguard it.

Titanium Dioxide plant in Orissa

1570. SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the fate of Indo-Russian joint venture Titanium Dioxide Plant in Orissa;

(b) whether Russian Government is backed from the joint venture project;

(c) if so, whether the Government of Russia is showing its interest to set up such plant separately; and

(d) whether Government has given its permission to the Russian Government for the project?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA) : (a) A dispute has arisen between the Indian and Russian partners of the Indo-Russian joint venture Titanium Dioxide Plant proposed to be set up in Ganjam district of Orissa. The Indian partners, *i.e.* Saraf Agencies Private

Ltd. (SAPL) and Titanium Mineral Products Ltd. (TMPL) have served withdrawal notice from the joint venture - Titanium Products Private Ltd (TPPL) - on the Russian partners, *i.e.* Russian Federal Agency for State Property Management (ROSIMUSHCHESTVO) and JSC Technochim Holding. Both the Indian and Russian Governments have offered their good offices to help the joint venture partners to resolve all issues amicably.

(b) The Russian Government has not withdrawn from the joint venture.

(c) The Russian Government has expressed interest in continuing with plans to set up the Titanium Dioxide plant, once the outstanding issues between the joint venture partners are resolved.

(d) The Government of India had already approved TMPL's application to set up the project in Orissa in 2006. The joint venture, TPPL, was formed on 29 January 2008 following a decision of the Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission. The necessity of any further approval from the Government only arises when there are any further applications by the promoters of the project.

Indo-Pak Talks

1571. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO :

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Foreign Secretaries level talks between India and Pakistan were held to discuss various issues;

(b) if so, whether this meeting was called only after the Union Home Minister influenced its counterpart Pakistan's Foreign Minister; and

(c) the subject discussed and to what extent they were successful and whether further talks are likely to be held in future?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA) : (a) to (c) Foreign Secretary level talks between India and Pakistan were held on February 25, 2010. The two sides had a frank, constructive and useful exchange of views. During the talks, India's concerns on the terrorism emanating from Pakistan and directed against India were conveyed clearly in a forthright manner. 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.

The two Foreign Secretaries have agreed to remain in touch and continue the endeavour to build trust and confidence.