

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) Government's viewpoint over this allegation after Chinese statement on Arunachal Pradesh; and

(e) whether Government think it fit to have consultation with opposition and experts keeping in view the seriousness of the matter?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) India's views on the 1962 conflict are well-known and a matter of public record.

(d) and (e) Arunachal Pradesh is an integral part of India. Statements contrary to this effect by the Chinese Ambassador in New Delhi in November, 2006 were raised immediately with the Chinese Government through our Ambassador in Beijing. Our disappointment and response to the Chinese statement is clearly expressed in the *suo moto* statement made in this House on 28 November, 2006.

Indo-Bhutan bilateral ties

2607.DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI:

SHRI VIJAY J.DARDA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether India is thinking of raising bilateral ties between Bhutan and India and that the British-inherited India-Bhutan Friendship Treaty of 1949 would be extensively reviewed and would accord recognition in the changing face of Bhutan's politics and Bhutan's move towards democracy; and

(b) if so, whether there would be appreciable expansion between our mutual relations especially relating to hydropower, trade and commerce, human resource development, presenting a joint front to combat terrorism, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The India-Bhutan Treaty of 1949 has been updated by both government. The revised India-Bhutan Friendship Treaty was signed in New Delhi on 8th February, 2007. The Treaty has come into force following the exchange of Instruments of Ratification between the two governments in Thimphu on 2nd March, 2007.

The updated India-Bhutan Friendship Treaty reflects the contemporary nature of India-Bhutan relations and lays the firm foundation for their future development in the 21st century. The Treaty will enable the further intensification of our historically close, special and mutually beneficial relations in areas such as trade and economic cooperation, hydropower, human resource development, cultural and people-to-people exchanges. The Treaty contains fresh provisions for consolidating and expanding our relations in these areas.

Agenda of joint anti-terror meeting

2608. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the agenda of the recent joint Indo-Pak anti-terrorism meeting;
- (b) whether India shared the evidence of recent terrorist attacks involving cross border elements;
- (c) if so, the response of Pakistani side;
- (d) whether the issue of recent blast in Samjhauta Express was raised with Pakistani side;
- (e) if so, the response thereto; and
- (f) whether Government have assessed the prospects of such a mechanism in view of response of Pakistan on the evidences provided to it by India?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (f) During the Prime Minister's meeting with President Musharraf of Pakistan in Havana on 16 September, 2006, it was decided to put in place an India-Pakistan anti-terrorism institutional mechanism to identify and implement counter-terrorism initiatives and investigations. The first meeting of Joint Anti-terrorism Mechanism took place on 6-7 March, 2007 in Islamabad. At this meeting, both sides agreed that specific information would be exchanged through the mechanism for helping investigations on either side related to terrorist acts and prevention of violence and terrorist acts in the two countries. It was also agreed that