

(b) to (c) We do not have any bilateral agreement with the Maldives on combating terrorism, but both our countries continue to work closely in strengthening bilateral security cooperation. India remains vigilant of any anti-India and terrorist activities emanating from the territories of our neighbouring countries and, where necessary, takes up strongly such issues with the Governments concerned.

Minister's visit to Nepal

316. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister has recently paid a visit to Nepal and held discussions with his counterpart as well as other leaders about security concerns;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held and outcome thereof;

(c) whether anti-India activists are using Nepal as a safe base and creating problems for India; and

(d) if so, to what extent Nepal has agreed to extend help to the Indian Government in checking unhealthy activities?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) Yes.

(b) At the invitation of the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Nepal, the Minister of External Affairs paid an official visit to Nepal from January 15-17, 2010. He called on the President of Nepal, the Prime Minister of Nepal and the Speaker of the Constituent Assembly. Discussions were held with his counterpart on all aspects of bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest. Both expressed their satisfaction regarding the age-old, multifaceted relations that exist between Nepal and India and agreed to expand these further. They noted with satisfaction the progress made on the decisions taken during the visit of Prime Minister of Nepal to India in August 2009. Four Memoranda of Understanding for Government of India's assistance in the construction of Terai roads, construction of a Science Learning Centre, technical assistance, for establishment of a Central Depository System (CDS) in Nepal for development of Nepalese financial markets, and electrification of five Village Development Committees in Nepal were signed during the visit.

(c) and (d) The two Ministers discussed security concerns of their respective countries and agreed that terrorism and extremism were a threat to both countries. They agreed to cooperate closely to end this menace. Ways to enhance bilateral security cooperation to control cross-border crimes such as smuggling of fake Indian currency, human trafficking and arms smuggling were also discussed. The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal reiterated that the Government of Nepal will not allow Nepalese territory to be used for any activity against India. It was agreed to take all necessary action to preserve law and order and maintain peace and tranquillity along the India-Nepal border.