

- (a) whether Government is aware of the Chinese incursions and encroachments into India's territory in Ladakh;
- (b) if so, the facts and details thereof;
- (c) whether Government proposes to strengthen its frontiers and take up the matter with the Chinese Government; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Chinese authorities in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (d) India and China are, through negotiations, seeking to arrive at a final settlement of 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. Since 1993, the two Governments have agreed to maintain peace and tranquility along the LAC in the India-China border areas, without prejudice to their respective positions on the alignment of the LAC as well as on the boundary question. Government regularly takes up any violation along the LAC with the Chinese side through established mechanisms including the Joint Working Group, the Expert Group, border personnel meetings, flag meetings and diplomatic channels. Prime Ministers of India and China have reiterated, on many occasions that pending the final settlement of the boundary question, peace and tranquility should be maintained in our border areas. Government keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's security and takes all necessary measures to safeguard it.

Lashkar-e-Taiba's base in Maldives

315. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that Pakistan based Lashkar-e-Taiba has been trying to set up base in isolated islands in Maldives;
- (b) if so, whether Government has decided to have anti-terror agreements with Maldives and proposes to take steps to ensure that Lashkar-e-Taiba should not set up base there; and
- (c) if so, the other strategies likely to be formulated by Government to ensure that anti-Indian and terrorist groups are not setting their base in the neighbouring friendly countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) We have no come across any credible reports of Lashkar-e-Taiba setting up a base in the Maldives.

(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.