

and Eastern Sri Lanka including railway lines, harbor, cultural centre, stadium, vocational centres, etc.

#### **Visit of Sri Lankan President**

2016. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the President of Sri Lanka had recently visited India and held discussions with various leaders on different issues;
- (b) if so, the details of discussions held and outcome thereof;
- (c) whether Government had raised any concerns regarding the growing presence of the Chinese in Sri Lanka posing a threat to Indian security;
- (d) if so, the response of the Sri Lankan President in this regard; and
- (e) the details of any steps Government proposes to take to address any contentious issues with Sri Lankan Government?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (e) President Mahinda Rajapaksa of Sri Lanka visited India from June 8-11, 2010. A Joint Declaration was issued by both sides. The discussions covered the entire gamut of our relations with Sri Lanka. The President of Sri Lanka reiterated his determination to evolve a political settlement acceptable to all communities. The President of Sri Lanka expressed appreciation for India's substantial assistance to Sri Lanka for the humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and resettlement of IDPs and agreed on speedy resettlement of the remaining IDPs. India also announced a major initiative to undertake a programme to construct 50,000 houses for the IDPs in Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka.

Several bilateral initiatives were taken, including reiteration of India's support for various projects in Northern & Eastern Sri Lanka including railway line, KKS harbor, thermal power plant at Trincomalee, cultural centre, Duraipappa stadium, vocational centres, etc. Both India & Sri Lanka agreed to resume the ferry services between Colombo and Tuticorin and Talaimannar and Rameshwaram and also agreed to establish Consulates General of India in Jaffna and Hambantota. There was a mutual commitment to enhancing connectivity, promote economic integration and

closer developmental cooperation. Seven MoUs/Agreement/Treaty were signed, including on Small Development Schemes, Cultural Exchange Programme, MoU on Talaimannar-Madhu Railway Line etc.

India's security concerns and sensitivities have been reiterated. However, our relations with Sri Lanka are multi-dimensional and stand on their own and are not dependent on Sri Lanka's relations with any third country.

#### **Solution of boundary dispute with China**

2017. SHRI RAASHID ALVI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has expressed satisfaction at the progress being made by the special representatives of India and China towards mutually acceptable solution of the boundary dispute;

(b) the progress made in this regard;

(c) the total area occupied by China; and

(d) the stand of China on Arunachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) In 2003, India and China agreed to each appoint a Special Representative to explore from the political perspective of the overall bilateral relationship the framework for a boundary settlement. There have been thirteen meetings of the Special Representatives so far, last round in August 2009. The first five meetings resulted in the signing of the "Agreement on the Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of the India-China Boundary Question" on April 11, 2005. In the Joint Statement issued during the visit of Chinese Premier to India in 2005, the two sides "expressed satisfaction over the progress made in the discussions between the Special Representatives of the two countries". At present the two Special Representatives are exploring the framework for a settlement covering all sectors of the boundary.

(c) Indian territory under the occupation by China in Jammu & Kashmir is approximately