

Setting up of new training camps by Lashkar-e-Taiba

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

(a) whether Government is aware that the Pakistan based militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba that was responsible for 26/11 Mumbai carnage has expanded its operations in Afghanistan and is now setting up new training camps with the aim of hitting more Indian targets;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken up the matter with Government of Afghanistan; and

(c) if so, other steps that have been taken to apprise Afghanistan of the situation so that effective preventive steps may be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) Government has seen reports that the Lashkar-e-Taiba has expanded its operations in Afghanistan and set up training camps. Government continuously monitors the existence and operations of terrorist groups that target India and Indian interests.

(b) and (c) Government has consistently raised with its international partners, including the Government of Afghanistan, the issue of existence of terrorist sanctuaries in the region which target India and other countries. The Communique issued after the Kabul Conference, co-hosted by the Government of Afghanistan and the United Nations, also referred to combating terrorism by ending support, sustenance and sanctuaries for terrorists.

Government of India has comprehensively reviewed and enhanced security measures for the safety and security of our personnel and other Indians working in Afghanistan. It is also in regular touch with the Government of Afghanistan, which has assured necessary security for Indians in that country.

Government is committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard the nation's security.

Indo-Chinese cooperation on projects in other countries

*73. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and China have decided to work together on projects in other countries, in order to strengthen the feel-good factor that would help them tackle several irritants that lie in the way of sound and stable relationship;

(b) if so, whether this has emerged out of a long meeting between NSA and Ambassador of China while reviewing the entire gamut of bilateral relations;