

Foreign Secretary's visit to Pakistan

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

- (a) whether the Foreign Secretary had recently visited Pakistan and held discussions with her counterpart on several issues;
- (b) if so, the details of these discussions;
- (c) the details of pending issues resolved; and
- (d) to what extent the relations between both countries have been strengthened?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (d) Pursuant to the mandate given by Prime Minister and the Prime Minister of Pakistan after their meeting on the sidelines of SAARC Summit in Thimphu on April 29, 2010, Foreign Secretary visited Islamabad to hold discussions with Pakistan Foreign Secretary on June 24, 2010. During the talks, ground was prepared for the visit of External Affairs Minister to Pakistan from 14-16 July, 2010. The two Foreign Secretaries also discussed the modalities for restoring trust and confidence in the relationship and thus paving the way for a comprehensive, sustained and meaningful dialogue on all issues of mutual interest and concern.

Change in foreign policy with Chiha

‡451. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that India has brought changes in it's foreign policy in relation to China;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, whether it is a fact that India has recently assured China that India would treat Tibet as a territory of China; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (d) India's relationship with China is one of the priorities of India's foreign policy. India and China have established a Strategic and Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity. There are regular high-level political contacts between the two countries. External Affairs Minister visited China from 5-

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.