

Governing Board now, is being held in February, 2011 to discuss various administrative issues connected with the establishment of the University.

Chinese road link to Bangladesh

2513. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after strategic projects in Myanmar, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, China is moving closer to establishing a direct link-road to port city of Chittagong in Bangladesh as well as helping to construct the Sonadia deep sea port at Cox's Bazaar;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry is contemplating any serious security implications for India; and

(c) whether it needs any counter measures for such developments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) to (c) Government has seen media reports to such effect. Government is also aware of China's enhanced economic and technological capabilities in execution of infrastructure projects in developing countries, including in road, rail and ports. Government remains vigilant to all developments having a bearing on India's security and takes all necessary measures to safeguard it.

Government's reaction to Goldstone Report

2514. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Government's reaction to the Goldstone Report on Israeli aggression in the Gaza Strip; and

(b) whether Government equates suicide bombings by Hamas, as listed in the Goldstone Report, with civilian deaths inflicted on the Gaza Strip by Israeli military and security action?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) and (b) India voted in favour of the relevant resolutions on the Report of the United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict, also known as Goldstone Report, at the UN Human Rights Council on 16 October, 2009 and at the United Nations General Assembly on 5 November, 2009. In its Explanation of Vote at the Human Rights Council, India conveyed that the recommendation of the Report on the need for both sides to undertake independent, credible investigations in conformity with international standards, must be implemented forthwith. However, it was also made clear at both the Human Rights Council and the UN General Assembly that our support for the

resolutions should not be construed as our endorsement of the referrals to the United Nations Security Council and the International Criminal Court as recommended in the Goldstone Report.

Pakistan's semi-official terror groups

2515. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Pakistan's semi-official terror groups have increased their targeting of Indian citizens and Indian interests in Afghanistan;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the terror group is being financed by ISI for such activities; and
- (d) if so, the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) to (d) Government is aware of reports that terrorist groups carrying out attacks in Afghanistan receive support and sanctuary beyond Afghanistan's borders. Government continuously evaluates all developments in the region that impact India's security. Government is vigilant with regard to all threats to India's security and takes necessary measures to counter such threats.

India's concerns related to terrorism emanating from territory under Pakistan's control have been consistently conveyed to Pakistan. India has also called upon Pakistan to fulfil, in letter and spirit, the solemn commitment given by leaders of Pakistan of not allowing its soil for terrorist activities directed against India in any manner.

Discussion on China and Afghanistan with US President

†2516. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the problems of India related to Afghanistan, China and Pakistan that were discussed or mentioned during the visit of American President; and
- (b) the extent to which our expectations are fulfilled regarding subjects like outsourcing, technology transfer and nuclear treaty related to America?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) The visit of United States President Barack Obama from 6-9 November, 2010 was successful in strengthening mutual understanding between India and the United States on regional and global issues; accelerating the momentum of India-US bilateral cooperation; and, creating a long-term framework to elevate the India-US strategic partnership to a new level.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.