

with UN Member States, bilaterally and through the G-4 (India, Brazil, Germany, and Japan), to pursue expansion of the Security Council and our candidature for permanent membership of an expanded Security Council.

Brahmaputra water blocked by China

†3291. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in order to start construction work on hydro-power project by China that is already underway on the river Brahmaputra, the water flow of the river was blocked on 12 November, 2010;

(b) if so, whether Indian interests are being constantly ignored by China;

(c) whether Government is satisfied with the Chinese assurance in this matter; and

(d) whether Government has conducted any study that in what way the Brahmaputra waters in summers, flowing towards India would impact the country in case it is blocked or exceeding waters is released during the floods by China into the Indian territory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) to (d) Government has taken up this matter with the Chinese side, including during the recent India-China Strategic Dialogue on 16 November, 2010. The Chinese side has conveyed that China has always taken a responsible attitude towards trans-border rivers. They again clarified that the construction at Zangmu is that of a small power project, which will not store water or regulate the volume of water, and therefore, will not have an adverse impact on the downstream areas. In this context on 18 November 2010, the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson has said that in developing cross-border water resources China acts as a responsible country and takes precaution with regard to impacts on the downstream areas. Government keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's national interest and takes all necessary measures to safeguard it.

Discussion on nuclear weapon with US President

3292. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of the discussions between the Indian and US delegations on questions relating to the elimination of nuclear weapons during US President Barak Hussain Obama's visit to India in November, 2010; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the follow-up action which Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) and (b) During the visit of the US President to India in November 2010, the two leaders affirmed that their countries' common ideals, complementary strengths and a shared commitment to a world without nuclear weapons give them a responsibility to forge a strong partnership to lead global efforts for non-proliferation and universal and non-discriminatory global nuclear disarmament in the 21st century. The Government continues to support universal and non-discriminatory global nuclear disarmament in discussions with various countries.

US professional visa fee hike

3293. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has opposed the US professional visa fee hike and the ban on outsourcing of Government contracts;

(b) if so, the response from US on the above protest;

(c) whether the above move of US does not constitute protectionist measures; and

(d) if so, in what manners Government is planning to resolve the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) to (d) Government of India has conveyed its concerns to the United States Government over the protectionist sentiment in the US and possible adverse impact of the recent hike in the fee for H1B and L visa arising from a new law enacted by the US Congress in August, 2010 to raise funds for US border security measures.

During the visit of President Obama to India from 6-9 November 2010, Prime Minister and President Obama agreed on steps to reduce trade barriers and protectionist measures and also agreed to facilitate movement of professionals, investors and business travellers, students and exchange visitors between their countries and enhance their economic and technological partnership.

Persuading neighbouring countries for seat in UNSC

3294. SHRI RAASHID ALVI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India has approached the neighbouring countries in general and China and Pakistan in particular to support India to get a permanent seat in security council of U.N.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?