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(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?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) and (b) India believes that the United Nations (UN) especially the Security Council must reflect contemporary global realities. For this purpose the reform of the UN including the expansion of the Security Council in both permanent and non-permanent categories is essential. India holds the view that it has all the credentials to be a permanent member of an expanded Security Council. India has accordingly been engaged with other UN Member States, including the neighbouring countries, to build support for expansion of the Security Council and its candidature for permanent membership of an expanded Security Council. Many countries have endorsed India's candidature for permanent membership of the Security Council.

#### **Chinese infiltration in Ladakh region**

†3295. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chinese army infiltrated into Ladakh area and wrote "China" on its walls;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of infiltration or attempts of infiltration by Chinese army in Indian land between January, 2007 and September, 2010, year-wise; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government to stop such activities of Chinese army?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) to (d) China disputes the International Boundary between India and China. There is no commonly delineated Line of Actual Control (LAC) between the two countries. From time to time, on account of differences in the perception of the LAC, situations have arisen on the ground that could have been avoided if we had a common perception of the LAC. Government regularly takes up any transgression along the LAC with the Chinese side through established mechanisms including border personnel meetings, flag meetings and diplomatic channels. The two countries have appointed Special Representatives to explore from the political perspective of the overall bilateral relationship the framework for a boundary settlement. There have been fourteen meetings of the Special Representatives till date. The two sides have reiterated, on many occasions including during the recent meeting of the two Prime Ministers in Hanoi on 29 October, 2010, their commitment to maintain peace and tranquility along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China border areas, pending a final settlement of the Boundary Question. Government keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's security and takes all necessary measures to safeguard it.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.