

Islamabad's support to militant

3276. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Islamabad's support to the militants is not confined to the Taliban alone but also to the Lashkar-e-Taiyaba which has recently expanded its base in Afghanistan as per news report in the Statesman on 17 June, 2010;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Taliban is believed to have executed at least three major attacks against Indians in Afghanistan; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) to (c) Government has seen reports that the Lashkar-e-Taiba has expanded its operations in Afghanistan and set up training camps. Government is aware that terrorist groups, operating from beyond Afghanistan's borders, have targeted Indians in Afghanistan. Government continuously monitors the existence and operations of terrorist groups that target India and Indian interests.

Government 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.

Border issue with China

3277. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite increased political and economic relations over the years between China and India, tension remains along the shared 4057 kilometer border;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether China continues to needle India with frequent troop incursions across the LAC; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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 sides have reiterated, on many occasions, 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. The Prime Ministers of India and China reiterated this understanding during their meeting in Hanoi in October, 2010. Government keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's security and takes all necessary measures to safeguard it.

Interpretation facilities in Indian Missions

3278. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the Indian Embassies/High Commissions where interpretation facilities, from Hindi to local foreign language and *vice versa*, is available;

(b) the reasons for non-availability of such interpretation facilities in the remaining Indian Embassies/High Commissions; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to create an all India Interpretation Service for the facilitation of Indian dignitaries who desire to have discussion with foreign dignitaries in Hindi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) and (b) This Ministry's Interpreters' Cadre consists of officers with knowledge of one of the UN language *viz.*, Chinese, Russian, French, Spanish and Arabic. Ministry has also recruited German and Persian speaking officers. Some of these officers are presently posted in Missions abroad. All these officers have working knowledge of Hindi and can do interpretation from Hindi to the local foreign language and *vice versa*, if required. Further, all IFS officers are required to be proficient in one foreign language. These officers when posted in the Indian Embassies/High Commissions are often called upon to interpret for visiting dignitaries. India has Embassies/High Commissions in more than 120 countries. In several of these countries the local language is specific to that country. There are no Hindi-knowing interpreters in these Missions. We often have local interpreters who help the visiting dignitaries with interpretation in English from the local foreign language and *vice versa*.

(c) Taking into consideration the large number of local foreign languages spoken in places where India has Embassies/High Commissions it is not feasible to have an all India Interpretation Service.

Mismanagement by Haj Committee

3279. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state: