

position that it is necessary to have an environment free of terror or threat of terror and for Pakistan to abandon the use of terrorism as an instrument of policy if relations between the two countries are to move forward concretely and meaningfully.

Position of Arunachal Pradesh in Chinese mapping service

3300. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to China's assertion over Arunachal Pradesh being its part through its outline mapping service "Mapworld";
- (b) whether Government has raised this issue with China at any level;
- (c) the number of people from Arunachal Pradesh who travelled to China in the past one year;
- (d) whether this number is significantly more than the last year;
- (e) whether no visa was issued to the said travellers; and
- (f) if so, the time since China has not been issuing visas to people of Arunachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) and (b) China disputes the international boundary between India and China and illegally claims approximately 90,000 square kilometres of Indian territory in the State of Arunachal Pradesh. The fact that Arunachal Pradesh is an integral and inalienable part of India has been clearly conveyed to the Chinese side. 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.

(c) to (f) India's consistent position that there should be no discrimination against visa applicants of Indian nationality on grounds of domicile and ethnicity has been clearly conveyed to the Chinese side. Government does not maintain state-wise data of passengers who visited China.

Handing over control of PoK region to China

3301. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that Pakistan is handing over the *de facto* control of the strategic Gilgit-Baltistan region in the north-west corner of disputed Kashmir to China;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;