

#### **Chinese railway line in Chumbi Valley**

†819. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether China is implementing the scheme of laying railway tracks to Chumbi Valley which is easily accessible from Sikkim and Siliguri;
- (b) if so, the facts in this regard;
- (c) whether the interests of India have been ignored with the implementation of this scheme; and
- (d) if so, Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED):

(a) to (d) Government is aware that China is developing rail links in the border regions opposite India in the Tibet and Xinjiang Autonomous Regions, including the proposed extension of the Qinghai-Tibet Railway line upto Nyingchi. Government is giving careful and special attention to the development of infrastructure in the border areas opposite China, in order to meet our strategic and security requirements and also to facilitate the economic development of these areas. This includes the States of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. Government keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's security and takes all necessary measures to safeguard it.

#### **Effects of Pakistan-Chinese Bilateral relationship**

†820. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the mutually growing relationship between China and Pakistan over the past few years is increasing the concerns of India;
- (b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;
- (c) whether India has informed Pakistan and China about its concerns; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of these Governments in response to the concern of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED):

(a) There are some aspects of the China-Pakistan relationship which are of concern. These include matters relating to Sino-Pak nuclear cooperation.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) to (d) India's concerns in this regard have been clearly conveyed to China. The Chinese side has conveyed that their nuclear cooperation with Pakistan is for civilian use, which is consistent with their respective international obligations, and is subject to International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards and supervision. Government keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's national interest and takes all necessary measures to safeguard it.

#### **Exchange of land with Bangladesh**

†821. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI:

SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that small pieces of land are being exchanged near Indo-Bangladesh border by both Governments or there is any such proposal in near future;

(b) if so, the area of land proposed to be given to Bangladesh by India;

(c) the area of land India would get from Bangladesh; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED):  
(a) to (d) Article 1(12) of the India-Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement, 1974, provides for exchange of the Indian Enclaves in Bangladesh and the Bangladesh Enclaves in India. An agreed list of enclaves has been prepared and signed between the two sides in April, 1997 to this effect. As per the agreed list, Bangladesh has 51 enclaves inside Indian territory with an area of 7110 acres while India has 111 enclaves inside Bangladesh territory with an area of 17160 acres.

#### **Recent uprisings in Arab countries**

822. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent uprisings in various Arab countries like Tunisia, Egypt, Yemen and other parts of West Asia; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and its impact on our country, both political and economic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED):  
(a) Government are aware of the recent political developments in various Arab countries

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