

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Government wishes to see the emergence of a peaceful, stable and prosperous Nepal, that is free from the threat of violence. India, as a close and friendly neighbour, will contribute to this end to the best of its ability and resources, and looks forward to working together with the new Government in Nepal in this regard.

Withdrawal of troops from Siachen

3537. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Pakistan has come closer to an understanding on withdrawal of troops from Siachen with Islamabad inclined 'in-principle' to acknowledge current Indian troops positions on the glacier;

(b) if so, whether any agreement in this regard between these two countries have been reached and signed;

(c) if so, the details thereof and whether this agreement is a positive step and would help in solving other issues between two countries; and

(d) whether all the difference in this regard have completely been settled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) No agreement has been signed between India and Pakistan on the Siachen issue. India's position on this issue is that authentication of the presently held positions has to be the first step before any redeployment of troops is considered.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No.

Agreement to fight terrorism

3538. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and US have agreed to jointly fight terrorism in India and other parts of the world;