

**Chinese agreement with Pakistan to construct
nuclear reactor**

3294. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether “The Washington Free Beacon” reported that China has secretly entered into an agreement with Pakistan to construct a third nuclear reactor at Chashma in Punjab province;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Beijing’s promises under an international anti-nuclear weapons accord has been violated; and

(d) if so, the steps Government is taking to lodge a protest with the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (d) Government has seen media reports regarding the supply of nuclear reactors from China to Pakistan. Government is aware of China-Pakistan nuclear cooperation and has clearly conveyed its concerns to the Chinese side. The issue of supply of nuclear reactors from China to Pakistan has been raised by Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) Participating Governments in previous NSG meetings. India is not a member of the NSG. Government keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's national interest and takes all necessary measures to safeguard it.

Use of Bangladeshi port for trans-shipment of foodgrains

3295. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indo-Bangladesh diplomatic ties suffered a set back following Bangladesh’s refusal to allow India to use its port for trans-shipment of foodgrains to North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, whether the Minister has taken up the matter with the Bangladesh Government during his visit to Bangladesh in the recent past;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

- (d) on what other issues the discussions were held and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (c) India has requested Bangladesh to facilitate trans-shipment of 10,000 MT of food grains from Kolkata to Agartala *via* Ashuganj in Bangladesh. The issue was raised by the Minister of External Affairs during his visit to Dhaka in February, 2013 for the 2nd India-Bangladesh Joint Consultative Commission meeting. The Bangladesh side noted the request and conveyed that the movement of food grains would involve use of multimodal transport, including waterways and roads, for which infrastructure requirement would have to be examined. Subsequently, a visit by a Technical Team comprising representatives of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) to Bangladesh was undertaken.

(d) The 2nd Joint Consultative Commission meeting between India and Bangladesh reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations including trade and investment, security, border management, connectivity, development cooperation, art and culture, water, power, shipping, human resource development, etc. The Ministers expressed satisfaction at the significant forward movement in implementation of the decisions taken by the two sides and welcomed regular exchanges, which had helped create goodwill between the two countries.

Return of Koh-i-noor diamond by UK

3296. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether British Prime Minister had visited India recently;
- (b) the purpose of his visit;
- (c) whether Government of India had taken up the matter of return of Koh-i-noor diamond back to India; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) Mr. David Cameron, the British Prime Minister paid an official visit to India from 18-20 February, 2013. The entire expanse of bilateral relations was reviewed in talks held in New Delhi on 19 February, 2013 during the visit.