

(c) if so, the action being taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that the Minister of External Affairs had raised these issues with China recently, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) There is no commonly delineated Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the border areas between India and China. 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.

(b) and (c) Government pays close attention to China's military modernization program as well as its infrastructure development projects in the border regions opposite India in the Tibet and Xinjiang Autonomous Regions. 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 and 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.

(d) Government regularly takes up any transgression along the LAC with the Chinese side through established mechanisms including border personnel meetings, flag meetings, meetings of Working Mechanism for Consultation & Coordination on India- China Border Affairs and diplomatic channels. Minister of External Affairs had raised these issues with his counterpart the Foreign Minister of China recently. 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.

Chinese soldiers in Ladakh

510. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Government's views on the continued incursions by the Chinese soldiers in Ladakh as it may impact our bilateral relations in future; and

(b) the progress on the boundary talks with the Chinese and whether the Chinese have exchanged maps on the territory they term as 'disputed'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) There is no commonly delineated Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the border areas between India and China. 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, meetings of Working Mechanism for Consultation & Coordination on India-China Border Affairs 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. Government keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's security and takes all necessary measures to safeguard it.

(b) India and China have appointed Special Representatives (SRs) to explore from the political perspective of the overall bilateral relationship, the framework for a boundary settlement. There have been 16 rounds of talks between the SRs of India and China on the Boundary Question, so far. The National Security Advisor, who is India's SR visited Beijing on 28-29 June, 2013 for the 16th round of SR Talks. The SRs continued their discussions on a framework for a resolution of the Boundary Question, which constitutes the second step of a three- stage process. They also discussed the maintenance of peace and tranquility in the India-China border areas including possible additional confidence building measures, ways and means of strengthening existing mechanisms for consultation and coordination on border affairs and methodology to enhance the efficiency of communications between the two sides.

Relations with new Government in Pakistan

511. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, after the recent elections in Pakistan, any new steps have been taken in order to reach out to the new Government in Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) Government remains committed to building