In keeping with the Simla Agreement, Government endeavors to build peaceful, friendly, cooperative ties with Pakistan and to resolve all outstanding issues through a peaceful bilateral dialogue. It is common for Governments to have a variety of processes for official communication. Presently, flowing from the decision taken at the meeting between Prime Minister and the Prime Minister of Pakistan on May 27 in New Delhi the Foreign Secretaries of both countries will meet in Islamabad for talks on how to take bilateral ties forward.

(c) Does not arise.

Order of NGT about construction within 10 km. radius of Okhla Bird Sanctuary

*330. SHRI SALIM ANSARI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Green Tribunal has passed an order that construction within 10 km. radius of Okhla Bird Sanctuary cannot be given completion certificate leaving buyers/builders in Noida, Delhi and Greater Noida in the lurch ;

(b) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to resolve the issue as quickly as possible in the interest of several lakhs flat buyers;

(c) whether 100 meters boundary around the sanctuary is considered to be enough for bird species and migratory birds as per international standards; and

(d) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to restrict 100 meters boundary to protect interest of lakhs of buyers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) The National Green Tribunal *vide* their order dated 28.10.2013 had directed that *"..all the building constructions made within 10 km radius of the Okhla Bird Sanctuary or within distance of eco-sensitive zone as may be prescribed by the Notification issued by the MoEF shall be subject to the decision of the NBWL and till the time the clearance of NBWL is obtained, the authority concerned shall not issue completion certificates to the projects".*

(b) The Government of Uttar Pradesh submitted a proposal for declaration of Eco-Sensitive Zone around the Okhla Bird Sanctuary. In pursuance of the directions of the National Green Tribunal, the proposal of Eco-Sensitive Zone around the Okhla Bird Sanctuary was discussed in a meeting chaired by the Secretary, Environment, Forests and Climate Change and some modification in the proposal after a site inspection by

a committee of representatives of MoEF, Governments of Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi was suggested. The inspection was carried out and the State Government of Uttar Pradesh has been requested to submit the revised proposal. The revised version has not been received in the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.

The requirement of clearance of NBWL for the building projects within 10 km of the Okhla Bird Sanctuary is based on the direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 4th December 2006 in Writ Petition 460/2004 for referring to NBWL all cases where Environmental Clearance (EC) had been granted for activities within 10 km zone.

National Board for Wild Life and its Standing Committee have been reconstituted. The meeting of the re-constituted Standing Committee of NBWL has been fixed for 12th August 2014.

However, no proposal for building construction within 10 kms of Okhla Sanctuary has been received for consideration of the Standing Committee of NBWL.

(c) and (d) The basis of declaration of Eco-Sensitive Zone is the following decision of the National Board for Wildlife on 17th March 2005: *"Delineation of Eco-Sensitive Zones would have to be site specific and relate to regulation, rather than prohibition of specific activities".*

Eco-Sensitive Zones are to be notified in consultation with the State Government based on site specific scientific criteria. Certain activities as provided in the Eco-Sensitive Zone Notification are to be regulated as prescribed in the notification.

Depletion of Natural Conservation Zones

*331. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an alarming depletion of Natural Conservation Zones-forest, water bodies and waste land in NCR between 1999 and 2012; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the measures proposed to be taken to prevent the depletion of Natural Conservation Zones due to the accelerated urbanization of the areas?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) and (b) As per the analysis done by National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB) in conjunction with National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Department of Space, Government of India, using Satellite Imageries, there exist variations in the Natural Conservation Zones (NCZ) as contained in the Regional Plan-2021, notified in