

developments in India's neighbourhood particularly developments that impact the nation's security. India steadfastly supports the people of Afghanistan in their quest to build a peaceful, united, democratic and prosperous Afghanistan. A credible and transparent election process accepted by all, leading to a smooth political transition is essential for the Afghan people to achieve this goal and preserve the gains made in the past decade in the face of formidable threats posed by terrorist groups operating from beyond Afghanistan's borders.

Government of India have called upon the international community to adhere to the commitments made to Afghanistan towards rebuilding of the Afghan security forces and for assisting in the development and reconstruction of the Afghan economy.

Government continues to take all necessary measures to safeguard India's interests in Afghanistan including ensuring the safety and security of our diplomatic premises and of Indian citizens working there. This involves working closely with security agencies of the Government of Afghanistan and continuously upgrading security arrangement at our diplomatic premises and project sites.

Adherence to principle of Panchsheel

2340. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China has reiterated its commitment and adherence to the principle of Panchsheel, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has made or is making any efforts with regard to the revival of agreement between the two countries on these lines and for non-infiltration into Arunachal Pradesh territory, if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) Yes. On June 28, 2014 China organized an event in Beijing to commemorate the 60th anniversary of Panchsheel. At the invitation of the Vice President of China, the Hon'ble Vice President of India Shri M. Hamid Ansari, paid an official visit to China from June 26 to 30, 2014. He attended events to mark the 60th anniversary of 'Panchsheel' at Beijing on June 28-29, 2014. China reiterated its commitment and adherence to the principles of Panchsheel as was reflected in the letter sent by Chinese President XI Jinping to President Pranab Mukherjee on the occasion of commemoration of the 60th anniversary of Panchsheel.

(b) Government of India makes all efforts and takes all necessary measures to

safeguard India's sovereignty, and territorial integrity and maintain peace and tranquility in India-China border areas. Government regularly takes up any transgression along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with the Chinese side through established mechanisms including border personnel meetings, flag meetings, meetings of Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India- China Border Affairs and diplomatic channels. The two sides agree that peace and tranquility on the border is the basis for the continued expansion of India-China relations.

Visit of External Affairs Minister of France

†2341. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether External Affairs Minister of France recently came to India on two day's visit, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the deliberations and the issues discussed by Government with the External Affairs Minister of France;

(c) whether India had selected French fighter plane, Rafael two years back but due to some reasons this deal is still pending; and

(d) whether Government had discussed all issues like the deal of Rafael fighter plane, Jaitapur atomic power plant and climate change prominently with the External Affairs Minister of France and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) Yes. The Foreign Minister of France, Mr. Laurent Fabius was on a two day visit to India from 30 June - 1 July, 2014.

(b) Both sides had discussions on bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual concern.

(c) The process of contract negotiations with the L1 Vendor, M/s Dassault Aviation of France, for procurement of Medium Multi Role Combat Aircraft (MMRCA) is on.

(d) The status of various bilateral projects was also discussed during the meeting. On climate change, India expressed its hope that a comprehensive, balanced and equitable outcome will be reached at the COP21 to be hosted by France in December 2015.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.