

Silk road project of China

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

(a) whether China has decided to revive its Silk Road Project to develop International Trade Routes and requested India to take part in the project, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the response of the Indian Government to such request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. (RETD.) V.K. SINGH]: (a) and (b) The Government of India has noted the new Chinese initiatives of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. The ancient trade routes in Asia included the Silk Route, the Spice Route and many other such routes. These were the channels of vibrant trade in the region and beyond and anchor of Asia's prosperity. They promoted exchange of ideas, cultures, art, religion and spiritualism. India, historically was at the centre of several of these trade routes and shared its age-old wisdom with societies along these routes.

Resumption of CBMs with Pakistan

527. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal for resumption of dialogue to seek out confidence building measures (CBMs) with Pakistan, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether there is South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) meeting in Kathmandu within a month; and

(c) if so, the issues Government proposes to raise in this conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. (RETD.) V.K. SINGH]: (a) to (c) The 18th SAARC Summit is scheduled to be held on November 26-27, 2014 in Kathmandu, Nepal.

The Government is committed to resolving all outstanding issues with Pakistan through a peaceful bilateral dialogue on the basis of the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration. For a meaningful dialogue an environment free from the threat of terror and violence is essential. In his address to the UN General Assembly on September 27, 2014, the Prime Minister once again reiterated India's willingness to engage with Pakistan in a