

(c) the details of Government's schemes to avoid such disasters, through the Department of Forests and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) No report detailing the reasons for natural disaster in Jammu and Kashmir is available with the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change. However, as per report received from the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, the State faced floods in the first week of September, 2014. A number of reasons can be attributed to this natural calamity, including high rainfall in the catchment areas over a short period of time, less capacity of drainage system of the area.

As per the India State of Forest Report 2013, there is decrease of only one square kilometre of forest cover with respect to 2011 assessment.

(c) The State/UT Forest Departments are taking number of steps for prevention, conservation and improving the forest cover under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes as well as State funded Schemes.

Relation between India and Pakistan

2868. DR. T.N. SEEMA:

DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's current policy regarding Pakistan has helped Pakistan to 'internationalize' the Kashmir dispute;

(b) if so, the details and the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether a large section of international media has reported that the relations between India and Pakistan have deteriorated sharply in recent weeks;

(d) if so, the reasons and the reaction of Government thereto;

(e) whether various bilateral agreements signed between India and Pakistan in the recent years has been violated from the Pakistani side; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ):

(a) to (f) Government is aware of Pakistan's attempt to spread anti-India propaganda at

international level. Government has, and will continue to, take all necessary measures to protect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the nation and to ensure the safety and security of all our citizens.

Government has reiterated to Pakistan, India's commitment to establish peaceful, cooperative bilateral ties and to resolve all outstanding issues through a bilateral dialogue as envisaged under the Simla Agreement and Lahore Declaration, and in this context has called upon Pakistan to respect the sanctity of the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir and abide by its publicly stated commitment to prevent terror groups to operate from its territory or territories under its control against India. Pakistan's sponsorship of terror groups and hostile propaganda against India has, however, continued unabated.

Participation in the Conference on use of Nuclear Weapons

2869. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is officially or unofficially participating in the Conference on the humanitarian consequences of the use of Nuclear Weapons on 8-9 December, 2014 in Vienna;

(b) if so, the principal objectives that would be pursued by the Indian delegation; and

(c) whether such participation would assist India's endeavour to join the Nuclear Suppliers Group?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ):

(a) Yes. India participated officially at the Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons (Dec. 8-9, 2014).

(b) India participated in the Conference to underline the need for joint efforts and support for policy and legal measures for increased restraints on the use of nuclear weapons. India underscored that these discussions can be more meaningful if they include all the states possessing nuclear weapons and if they respect the primacy of the United Nations disarmament forums. India reiterated its commitment to nuclear disarmament which can be achieved through a step-by-step process underwritten by a universal commitment and an agreed global and non-discriminatory multilateral framework.

(c) India's participation at the Conference reinforces its unwavering commitment to universal, non-discriminatory and verifiable nuclear disarmament. The Nuclear Suppliers' Group (NSG) is an export control regime and is not related substantively to the agenda of this Conference.