

Government is constantly engaged with the Government of Sri Lanka on issues relating to the ongoing political reconciliation efforts in Sri Lanka and the India-Sri Lanka fishermen related issues.

#### **Streamlining of foreign infrastructure investment**

2875. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether with an aim to streamline foreign infrastructure investment, Government has set up a new division in the Ministry called “Centre-State relations”;

(b) if so, whether several foreign dignitaries in the recent past have expressed their desire to visit cities other than Delhi to set up projects; and

(c) if so, to what extent the new division in the Ministry called “Centre-State relations” would address the various problems being faced by foreign companies for investments in States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [(GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH)] : (a) Yes. In keeping with the emphasis on coordination with States for further facilitation of their efforts to promote exports and tourism and attract more overseas investment and expertise, a separate Division named “States Division” has been set up in this Ministry.

(b) Mutual interest in strengthening bilateral economic relations is reflected by the inclusion of cities other than Delhi in the itinerary of foreign dignitaries during their visit to India.

(c) “States Division” will coordinate facilitation of efforts in promoting exports, foreign investment and expertise and tourism among Indian Missions/Posts abroad, Governments of States and Union Territories, foreign diplomatic and trade missions in India and concerned Government of India Ministries.

#### **Encouraging of cultural/academic relation with China**

2876. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) in what manner Government plans to encourage academic exchanges, translation of books and information sharing regarding societies, arts and culture between India and China; and

- (b) the details of the work done so far in these fields?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ):

(a) and (b) India and China have a Cultural Exchange Programme and an Educational Exchange Programme. Indian Embassy Cultural Section was expanded into a full-fledged Culture Wing, which has an Indian classical dance teacher and a music teacher. We are supporting an India Studies Centre at Peking University. Year 2014 was marked as a “Year of Friendly Exchanges” by the two countries. Several cultural exchanges and activities under ‘Glimpses of India’ were organized in 2014.

During Premier Li Keqiang’s visit to India from 19-21 May, 2013, MoU on mutual translation and publication of classical and contemporary works was signed.

During Prime Minister Singh’s visit to China from 22-24 October, 2013, Programme of Cultural Exchange for the years 2013-2015 was signed.

During the visit of President Xi Jinping in September, 2014, the two sides signed the MoU to enhance cooperation between cultural institutions of the two countries to foster long-term collaboration between various cultural institutions like museums, archaeological organizations and performing art centres.

The Encyclopaedia of India-China Cultural Contacts was released in Beijing during the visit of Vice-President Shri Hamid Ansari to China from 26-30 June, 2014.

The two countries also have a programme for annual exchange of youth delegations. A 100 member Chinese youth delegation visited India in September, 2014. A 100 member Indian youth delegation is scheduled to visit China in November, 2014 under annual youth exchange programme.

#### **Policy Planning Division in Ministry**

2877. SHRI PAVAN KUMAR VARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a Policy Planning Division in the Ministry, if so, its mandate;
- (b) if such a mandate exists, the assessment of its substantive output in the last two years;
- (c) in particular, the number of policy papers, especially relating to our