

Map showing Aksai Chin as part of China

2879. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a map has been issued showing Aksai Chin to be part of Chinese Territory;
- (b) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard; and
- (c) whether the said map has been withdrawn?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ):
(a) to (c) China disputes the international boundary between India and China. Indian territory under the occupation of China in Jammu and Kashmir is approximately 38,000 sq. kms. In addition, under the so-called China-Pakistan “Boundary Agreement” signed between China and Pakistan on 2 March, 1963, Pakistan illegally ceded 5,180 sq. kms. of Indian territory in Pakistan occupied Kashmir to China. The fact that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral and inalienable part of India has been clearly conveyed to the Chinese side on several occasions, including at the highest level.

Bilateral relations with Maldives

2880. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is maintaining historical friendship with Maldives giving regional strength and also in global politics and international relations maintaining India’s Leadership and equality with Maldives; and
- (b) if so, the recent ‘Maritime Silk Route’ understanding with China by Maldives is not changing the situation and relationship of India-Maldives?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ):
(a) India has traditional and age old ties of friendship and cooperation with Maldives. Bilateral cooperation between India and Maldives has continued to grow, especially in the areas of defence and security.

(b) Our bilateral relations stand independent of the relations of Maldives with any other country. Government of India will continue its positive engagement with the Maldives in the spirit of the close and friendly relations between the two countries.