

and Indian Ocean region during the US President's visit to the country recently; and

(b) if so, the details of the statement made and its impact on our relations with our neighbouring countries particularly China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) and (b) The President of the United States H.E. Barack Obama accompanied by First Lady Michelle Obama, visited India from 25-27 January 2015 as the Chief Guest at India's 66th Republic Day celebrations. The India-US Joint Strategic Vision for the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean Region was one of the 3 documents jointly issued during the visit.

As the leaders of the world's two largest democracies that bridge the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean region, India and the US agreed to work towards closer partnership to promote peace, prosperity and stability in the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean region through a Joint Strategic Vision for the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean Region. As India and the US are important drivers of regional and global growth, they agreed to support sustainable, inclusive development, and increased regional connectivity by collaborating with other interested partners to address poverty and support broad-based prosperity. It was also agreed to promote accelerated infrastructure connectivity and economic development to support regional economic integration and security, strengthen regional dialogues, regional forums and pursue areas where both countries can build capacity in the region that strengthen long-term peace and prosperity for all. As part of these efforts, the United States also welcomed India's interest in joining the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum.

#### **Chinese reaction on Indian infrastructure on borders**

362. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the infrastructure project at Indian side of the border with China has been opposed by the Chinese authorities, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether this subject was taken up for discussion with the Chinese authorities during the recent visit of the Minister;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Chinese authorities in this regard; and

(d) the action taken by Government to complete the infrastructure project on our side of the border?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) to (d) Government is giving careful and specific attention to the development of infrastructure for the development of border areas in order to meet India's Strategic and Security requirements as also to facilitate the economic development of these areas. This includes the States of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. Government does not allow foreign governments and agencies to interfere with Government's right to undertake economic development within India's territory. Government keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's security and takes all necessary measures to safeguard it.

#### **Visit of President of Bangladesh to India**

363. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Bangladesh have entered into any land boundary agreement during the visit of Abdul Hameed, President of Bangladesh on 18th December, 2014 to India, if so the details thereof; and

(b) whether India has entered into land swap deal with Bangladesh for a permanent solution to the infiltration problem, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) India and Bangladesh have not entered into any agreement during the visit of Bangladesh President to India on December 18, 2014.

(b) The "Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Bangladesh Concerning the Demarcation of the Land Boundary between India and Bangladesh and Related Matters" (LBA) was signed with Bangladesh in 1974 and the Protocol to the LBA was signed in September 2011. It settled the long outstanding land boundary issues related to undemarcated segment of 6.1 Kms; territories in adverse possession; and exchange of enclaves. The Constitution (119th Amendment) Bill for implementing the India-Bangladesh LBA signed in 1974 and the Protocol signed in 2011 was introduced in Rajya Sabha in December 2013. The Bill was examined by the Standing Committee on External Affairs which tabled its report in the Parliament on December 02, 2014.