

of the High Commission of India, Islamabad are subjected to intrusive surveillance including tailing, at times aggressively, by the intelligence and security personnel of the Government of Pakistan. This is taken up with the Government of Pakistan at various levels.

India-China border issues

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

(a) whether India and China have agreed to patch up border issues, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether this issue has come up for discussion during the Prime Minister's visit to China, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Chinese Government to the matter, the details of the resolutions made during the visit of PM to China and action plan envisaged in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH] : (a) to (c) During the recent visit of Prime Minister to the People's Republic of China, the discussions with Chinese leadership were comprehensive and substantive. Various issues of significance, including the India-China boundary question, were discussed in a frank and cordial manner. The two sides made a positive assessment of the important progress made through the mechanism of Special Representatives.

The two sides have agreed to appoint a Special Representative (SR) to explore the framework for a boundary settlement from the political perspective of the overall bilateral relationship. 18 rounds of SR talks have been held till date.

India and China are committed to resolving bilateral issues through dialogue and peaceful negotiations and in a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable manner.

Help to earthquake-stricken Nepal

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

(a) whether Government of India has extended any help to the earthquake-stricken Nepal, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of Indians suffered during the earthquake, particularly from Jharkhand;

(c) whether any study has been done on the effect of earthquake witness across the country, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the persons killed and injured and rehabilitation measures taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH] : (a) Yes. Indian rescue and relief assistance reached Nepal within six hours of the 25 April 2015 earthquake. Indian military aircrafts, helicopters, commercial flights, cargo trucks and trains carried relief material and rescue teams to Nepal. Over 570 tonnes of relief material was air-lifted, over 14000 tonnes was sent by road in nearly 2000 trucks, and about 1200 tonnes was sent by rail. Sixteen Units of the National Disaster Response Force worked in coordination with Nepalese security agencies to help rescue victims and clear debris. Relief and rescue material supplied by India included food and water, medicines, medical aid teams, mobile field hospitals, blankets, tents, tarpaulins, engineering task forces and equipment, oxygen regenerator and cylinders, and other essential commodities and equipment. India extended support to the Nepal electricity authorities in restoring power in different parts of Nepal. In all, Indian teams rescued nearly 6500 persons, evacuated 3975 Indian nationals, provided medical aid to over 4700 persons, and cleared 6500 cubic meters of debris from World Heritage Sites in Nepal. Community kitchens ('langars') functioned for 10 days in different locations in Nepal, serving cooked meals and distributing dry rations to nearly 1 lakh people. Granting visa on arrival was provided at Indian airports and land ports to about 1600 foreign nationals travelling out of Nepal through India. Indian Air Force deployed Mi17 and Dhruv Advanced Light Helicopters for over a month to assist Nepal Army in their continuing operations, before being de-inducted on 4 June 2015.

(b) As per the available information, 54 Indian nationals died and 17 were injured in the earthquakes of 25 April and 12 May 2015 in Nepal. There is no confirmation about any of these victims coming from Jharkhand.

(c) and (d) Yes. The Government of Nepal undertook a comprehensive Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) to assess the damage due to the earthquake. The PDNA report was completed on 19 June 2015. The PDNA report states that there were over 8790 deaths, 22300 injuries, and over half a million houses destroyed in the earthquake. The life of nearly eight million people, which is almost one-third of the population of

Nepal, was impacted, with 31 of the country's 75 districts severely affected, out of which 14 were declared 'crisis-hit'. The destruction was widespread covering residential and Government buildings, heritage sites, schools and health posts, rural roads, bridges, water supply systems, agricultural land, trekking routes and sports facilities. The total reconstruction and rehabilitation costs have been estimated in the PDNA report as US\$ 6.695 billion.

The Government of Nepal declared a state of emergency and sought international assistance. Several donor meetings were convened to seek international assistance for Search and Rescue (SAR) and immediate relief operations. The Nepal Army, Nepal Police and Armed Police Force carried out effective SAR operations, despite several limitations, with the assistance of the Indian National Disaster Response Force, Indian Air Force and Indian Army Medical Corps. Over time, 134 international SAR teams from 34 countries responded to Nepal's request for assistance. Overall, Government of Nepal mobilized 22500 civil servants, 65059 Nepal Army personnel, 41776 Nepal Police staff, 24775 Armed Police Force personnel, and 4000 Government and private health workers for the SAR efforts. Distribution of relief material around Nepal was coordinated from the Kathmandu Airport.

Permanent seat in UNSC

381. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of acquiring a permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC);
- (b) the countries that are in favour of India for acquiring a permanent seat in the UNSC; and
- (c) the hurdles that Government is facing in this endeavour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH] : (a) to (c) India is of the view that the United Nations (UN), specifically the UN Security Council (UNSC), must reflect contemporary global realities. For this purpose, the reform of the UN, including the expansion of the UN Security Council, is essential. India also holds the view that it has all the credentials to be a permanent member of an expanded Security Council. We strongly believe that 2015, being the 70th Anniversary Year of the United Nations, provides a historic opportunity to seek concrete progress on this subject.