

Ties between China and Sri Lanka

†2011. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rapidly growing ties between Sri Lanka and China would entail a change in balance of power in the Indian ocean; and

(b) if so, whether Government is devising some action plan to deal with this situation and the time by when a final strategic decision would be taken after deliberations with all concerned parties in this context?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH): (a) and (b) Government of India is alert to developments in the region having a bearing on India's security and interests and is taking all measures as required on a continual basis.

Evacuation of Indian nationals from Sudan

2012. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian nationals in South Sudan have been evacuated completely in view of conflict there;

(b) if so, the number of persons air lifted, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any injury caused or casualty of Indian nationals in the conflict; and

(d) how far Indian Embassy in Sudan is safe and the action taken to ensure safety of Indian Embassy officials, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. J. AKBAR): (a) Yes, some of the Indian nationals in South Sudan have been evacuated in view of the recent incident of conflict in the country.

(b) The Government of India, in order to alleviate the difficulties faced by our nationals in South Sudan, launched Operation Sankat Mochan under which 153 Indians and 2 citizens of Nepal were evacuated.

(c) Our Embassy in Juba has not received any report of injury caused or casualty of any Indian national in the recent conflict.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) Indian Embassy in Juba and all the Embassy officials are safe. Ministry of External Affairs is constantly in touch with the Indian Embassy in Juba.

Separate section in Pentagon called "The Indian Commando Unit"

2013. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether United States of America (USA) has recently created a new separate section in Pentagon called 'the Indian Commando Unit';

(b) if so, the details thereof and the purpose and motive of the US Government to create such separate section in Pentagon; and

(c) the benefits for India out of this newly constituted section?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH): (a) to (c) A cell was created in January 2015 in the United States (US) Department of Defence called 'India Rapid Reaction Cell' (IRRC). This cell has been created to closely monitor and process issues relating to the Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) between India and the US. The IRRC aims to ensure inter-agency coordination on DTTI proposals within the US system.

India's interest in South China Sea region

2014. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has a range of interest in the South China Sea region like creation of blue ocean economy including protection of offshore infrastructure and maritime resources, safety of trade and sea lanes of communication and also regionally favourable geostrategic maritime position, if so, details thereof;

(b) if so, whether the award of the International Court of Arbitration dated on Philippines case against China's claim in the South China Sea shall have any consequence on India's diverse range of interest; and

(c) if so, what remedial measures Government is going to adopt in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH): (a) to (c) South China Sea is a major waterway