

(b) whether the nuclear deal of 2008, exempts India for nuclear trade with nuclear power nations; and

(c) if so, the reasons and rationale for Government's move to secure Nuclear Supplier Group (NSG) membership?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. J. AKBAR): (a) India has signed civil nuclear cooperation agreements with France, the United States, Russia, Namibia, Canada, Argentina, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Czech Republic, Australia, Sri Lanka and the United Kingdom. A Memorandum of Understanding on civil nuclear cooperation has also been signed with Mongolia. In December, 2015, India and Japan exchanged a Memorandum as per which both sides confirmed having reached agreement on an Agreement for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.

(b) On September 6, 2008, the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) adopted a policy decision [INFCIRC/734 (Corrected)] allowing civil nuclear cooperation between its members and India.

(c) Membership of NSG would place our existing civil nuclear cooperation with foreign partners on a predictable basis and facilitate the enhanced investments, industrial tie-ups and technology access required to accelerate augmentation of nuclear power capacity in India. It would also enable India to meet its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) pledge of 40% of its power capacity coming from non-fossil sources by 2030.

#### **Outcome of Eleventh Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)**

2813. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the outcome of the Eleventh Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) for India;

(b) the tangible areas of cooperation that were identified with ASEM partners; and

(c) whether Government has any specific plans for promoting ASEM partnership in tackling problems of climate change and terrorism, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. J. AKBAR): (a) India participated successfully in the Eleventh Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on July 15-16, 2016, marking the 20th anniversary of ASEM. Hon'ble Vice President, Shri Hamid Ali Ansari, who led

the India delegation, effectively put forth India's position that ASEM should work towards enhancing connectivity in all its dimensions, notably institutional, digital, economic and socio-cultural, as an enabler for development and greater people-to-people exchanges. He made a strong demarche on the need to isolate sponsors and financiers of terror and urged the leaders to go beyond condemnation to practical action. Leaders supported his call for strengthening the international legal regime against terrorism, notably through substantive progress in the ongoing negotiations on the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism at the UN, which was principally mooted by India in 1996. Leaders also welcomed the convening of the Sixth Heart of Asia/Istanbul Process Ministerial Meeting on Afghanistan in New Delhi in 2016. India's initiative of the International Solar Alliance of 122 solar rich countries was welcomed by Leaders as a significant measure in the field of climate change. Leaders also welcomed India's active role in shaping the discourse on the working methods of ASEM and the focus on tangible areas of cooperation.

(b) At India's initiative, the 20th tangible area of cooperation on 'youth exchanges' was agreed by members to mark 20 years of ASEM.

(c) Leaders deliberate at ASEM on a range of issues of regional and international interest and concern, including terrorism and climate change, in a manner that complements ongoing global efforts to tackle these issues. At the Eleventh ASEM Summit, leaders called for timely entry into force of the Paris Agreement, and committed to work together while being guided by the principles of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Leaders also emphasized the need for a comprehensive approach in countering terrorism and in this regard, expressed support for strengthening the international legal regime against terrorism. They further endorsed a Special Statement on International Terrorism that strongly and unequivocally condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and called for bringing to justice those responsible for the terrorist attacks.

#### **Quota for Kailash Mansarovar**

†2814. SHRI RAM NARAIN DUDI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of Kailash Mansarovar pilgrimage quota from India as on date;

(b) whether Government provides financial assistance to pilgrims for Kailash Mansarovar pilgrimage; and

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.