

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

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government proposes to provide facilities to all pilgrims going to Kailash Mansarovar akin to Haj pilgrims, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. J. AKBAR): (a) The Kailash Mansarovar yatra is organized annually by the Ministry of External Affairs of Government of India in cooperation with the Government of the People's Republic of China through two routes. The total number of yatris who can undertake yatra this year is 1430, which includes 18 batches of a maximum of 60 yatris in each batch *via* the Lipulekh route in Uttarakhand, and 7 batches of a maximum of 50 yatris in each batch *via* the Nathu La route in Sikkim.

(b) and (c) The Government of India does not extend any direct subsidy to yatris undertaking the Kailash Manasarovar yatra. The Government of India arranges, on self-payment basis, facilities like transportation, accommodation, food, medical tests, guides, visa, porters and ponies for carrying goods and belongings of yatris. A Government official is appointed as liaison officer to accompany each batch of yatris to ensure their welfare. From time to time financial assistance is provided to Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam for improving facilities along the yatra route, and to the Indo-Tibetan Border Police for facilitating the yatra.

Status of India's membership to MTCR

2815. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received any official communication regarding the status of India's membership to MTCR (Missile Technology Control Regime), if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) how would this membership help in development of India's ballistic missile development programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. J. AKBAR): (a) Yes, this Ministry received a formal communication from the Embassy of France in New Delhi on June 27, 2016 conveying the decision regarding India's accession to the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR).

(b) India has an indigenous and well developed ballistic missile programme to meet national security requirements. This programme is not dependent on India's membership of the MTCR.