

(d) No, Sir. However, augmentation of the observing system networks for the upgradation of IMD is a continuing process that shall be taken up as per the emerging needs from time to time.

Talks with China on border dispute

1192. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any dialogue with China during the recent visit of our Hon'ble Prime Minister regarding border dispute of Arunachal Pradesh as claimed by China; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. J. AKBAR): (a) and (b) Prime Minister Modi paid an official visit to China from 14-16 May, 2015. The discussions with Chinese leadership were comprehensive and substantive. Various issues of mutual significance and concern were discussed in a frank and cordial manner. The two sides emphasized their policy of attaching priority to the development of good-neighbourly and friendly bilateral relations and agreed to build a closer developmental partnership as a core component of bilateral relations. Both sides have expressed their commitment to seeking an early resolution of the boundary question in a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable manner. Arunachal Pradesh is an integral and inalienable part of India. This has been clearly conveyed to the Chinese side on several occasions, including at the highest level.

Benefits for being a member of BRICS

1193. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any benefits have accrued to India for being a member in the Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) as well as BRICS Bank, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether being a member in the BRICS, would benefit India's entry into NSG, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. J. AKBAR): (a) All members of BRICS grouping benefit from its collective strength by way of consultation and cooperation on economic issues of mutual interests, as well as topical global issues, such as, international terrorism, climate change, food and energy security, reforms of global governance institutions, etc.

The New Development Bank has come into existence with the vision of mobilizing resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in BRICS and other emerging economies and developing countries, to supplement the existing efforts of multilateral and regional financial institutions for global growth and development. The NDB will help India and other member countries to raise and avail resources for their infrastructure and sustainable development projects. The NDB has approved its first set of loans, which included a loan of US\$ 250 million in respect of India for 'Multitranché Financing Facility to Canara Bank for Renewable Energy Financing Scheme'.

(b) India remains engaged with the other BRICS countries on its NSG membership.

Bilateral agreements with Russia

1194. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has signed several agreements with Russia recently on various bilateral issues; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. J. AKBAR): (a) Yes.

(b) The Agreements/MoUs as per the Details given in the Statement (*See below*) at S. No. 1-17 were signed during the 16th India and Russia Annual Summit held in Moscow on 24 December, 2015; the Agreement at S. No. 18 was signed on 22 March, 2016 in New Delhi; the Agreements at S. No 19-22 were signed during 12-13 July 2016 in St. Petersburg.