

- (xii) MoU for Cooperation between the National Archives of India and the National Library and Archives Organisation of the Islamic Republic of Iran.
- (xiii) An India-Iran-Afghanistan trilateral Agreement on Establishment of Transport and Transit Corridors was signed in the presence of President Rouhani, Prime Minister Modi and President Ashraf Ghani in Tehran on 23 May 2016.

Afghanistan (04 June 2016): No MoU/Agreement was concluded during the visit.

In the delegation level talks between Prime Minister and President Rouhani of Iran on 23 May 2016 in Tehran, Iranian side highlighted the importance of effective banking channels between the two countries and suggested ways to enhance the banking relations including the payment mechanism. However, the matter of repayment of dues related to crude oil imports by India from Iran was not specifically discussed.

The Iranian side on several occasions had earlier raised the matter of repayment of dues related to import of crude oil, and conveyed that they wanted the dues to be repaid in Euro. Before the visit of Prime Minister to Iran, repayment for past oil dues which Indian oil importers owe to Iran were started and continue to be made as on date.

Chinese troops on Indian borders

1207. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has deployed more troops on Indian borders as per the recent report of Pentagon, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has taken up the issue of deployment of troops with Chinese authorities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the Chinese reaction and response thereon, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. J. AKBAR): (a) The Government has seen the Annual Report released in May 2016 by US Department of Defence on Military and Security Development in China in 2016. The annual report mandated by the US Congress is being issued since 2000. The report is a document available in public domain and covers current and probable future course of military-technology development of the People's Liberation Army and the tenets and probable development of Chinese security strategy and

military strategy, and of the military organizations and operational concepts supporting such development over the next 20 years.

(b) and (c) India and China have regular defence exchanges at various levels. The two sides have established the Annual Defence and Security Dialogue (ADSD) which is co-chaired by the Defence Secretary on the Indian side. ADSD discusses the whole gamut of bilateral defence relations. It also outlines the annual calendar of defence exchanges between the two sides. 7th ADSD was held in Beijing from 9-11 April, 2015. Under various agreements & MoUs, India and China have agreed that defence cooperation should be carried out in an effective and purposeful manner on the basis of equality, reciprocity, mutual benefit and mutual & equal security. The two sides recognize that the maintenance of peace and tranquility on the borders is an important guarantor for the development and growth of the bilateral relationship between both countries.

Agreement with Tunisia on terrorism

†1208. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Tunisia have entered into an agreement to fight against terrorism; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the said agreement is likely to come into force and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. J. AKBAR): (a) and (b) No. India and Tunisia have not entered into any agreement in fight against terrorism.

Killing of Hindu priests in Bangladesh

1209. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindu priests are being killed in Bangladesh very often;

(b) if so, the number of Hindu priests killed in Bangladesh in the last two years;

(c) whether the Ministry has taken up the issue with the Bangladesh authorities; and

(d) if so, whether any assurance has been received from them that no Indian would be harmed in future?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.