

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.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. J. AKBAR): (a) to (d) There have been sporadic incidents of attacks against minority communities including Hindu priests in Bangladesh. About half a dozen cases of attacks on the Hindu priests have been reported in the last two years in Bangladesh.

This issue has been taken up with the Bangladeshi authorities on various occasions, including the highest political levels. During our bilateral interaction, the Bangladeshi authorities have assured us that they take these attacks very seriously and are fully committed to bringing the perpetrators to justice.

The primary responsibility for protection of life and liberty of all citizens of Bangladesh, including the minorities, rests with the Government of Bangladesh. The Government of Bangladesh has assured us that they are committed to ensure safety and security of minority communities including Hindus. The Government has publicly reiterated its firm commitment to root out terrorism and militancy from Bangladesh and has taken various steps to counter the ideologies of radicalism and extremism in Bangladesh.

Assurance by Chinese President for steps for border security

†1210. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chinese President had assured the Prime Minister of India of taking concrete steps regarding border security;

(b) if so, the reasons for which China is violating the border agreement repeatedly and the steps taken by the Government to stop this; and

(c) the agreement signed between the Prime Minister of India and the Chinese President, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. J. AKBAR): (a) Prime Minister Modi has met Chinese President XI Jinping on several occasions in the last two years. Discussions between the two leaders have covered areas of mutual interest and concern. Both leaders have expressed their commitment to seeking an early resolution of the boundary question in a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable manner. Both sides are formally committed to maintenance of peace and tranquility in the border areas, which constitutes an essential foundation for mutual trust and confidence and for realizing the full potential of our

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.