

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.

relationship. It has been suggested that clarification of Line of Actual Control would greatly contribute to the efforts to maintain peace and tranquility. The two leaders have agreed to enhance exchanges between border troops of the two sides, including through opening additional border personnel meeting points.

(b) There is no commonly delineated Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the border areas between India and China. From time to time, on account of differences in the perception of the LAC, situations have arisen on the ground that could have been avoided if we had a common perception of the LAC. Government regularly takes up any transgression along the LAC with the Chinese side through established mechanisms including border personnel meetings, flag meetings, meetings of Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs and diplomatic channels.

(c) No agreements were signed between the Prime Minister of India and the Chinese President.

Financial assistance for land and construction of own houses

1211. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the people are not able to get financial assistance from Government for construction of their own houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) due to non-availability of land with them;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government proposes to give financial assistance for land required for housing projects for urban poor in order to provide house to all by 2022, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would consider to revise unit cost of housing project keeping in view the price escalation in building material and labour cost, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Government has launched Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) PMAY(U) on 25.6.2015, with the aim to provide assistance to States/UTs in addressing the housing requirement of all urban poor. 'Land' and 'Housing' are State subjects. It is, therefore, the responsibility of the State/UT/ULB authorities concerned to provide encumbrance free land in the projects under the PMAY(U) Mission. Additionally, it is incumbent upon the States/UTs to prepare/amend their Master Plans earmarking land for Affordable Housing.