

India has urged China to ensure that the interests of downstream States are not harmed by any activities in upstream areas.

The Chinese side has conveyed to us on several occasions that they are only undertaking run-of-the-river hydropower projects which do not involve diversion of the waters of the Brahmaputra. We intend to remain engaged with China on the issue of trans-border rivers to safeguard our interest.

China's support to counter cross border terrorism

1773. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to garner China's support to persuade Pakistan to desist from sponsoring cross-border terrorism, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the response of China in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. J. AKBAR): (a) and (b) China has often repeated its concern on spread of terrorism and their desire to cooperate with us on this issue. On several occasions, China has reiterated with us their resolute opposition to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations with 'zero tolerance', and has agreed that there is no justification for terrorism.

Government has consistently highlighted to China regarding the threat of cross border terrorism emanating from Pakistan and affecting the region, including India. Specifically, we have emphasized forcefully that while the Pakistan based Jaish-e-Mohammed has been proscribed by the UN Security Council Sanctions Committee established under UNSC Resolutions 1267/1989/2253, as far back as 2001 for its well known terror activities and links to the Al Qaeda, the designation of JeM's main leader, financier and motivator Masood Azhar has been repeatedly put on a technical hold. Accordingly, we have urged China to reverse its technical hold on India's request to list Masood Azhar under 1267 provisions. India's request is co-sponsored by several prominent countries.

Effects of new foreign policy

†1774. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the allied countries like Russia, Nepal and Sri Lanka are getting distanced from India owing to its current foreign policy, if so, the reasons therefor; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if not, the reasons for which the allied countries of India are getting distanced from it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. J. AKBAR): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

India's permanent membership of UNSC

†1775. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of countries in the world who are not in favour of India's becoming a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), the details thereof; and

(b) the number of countries which have been supporting India's membership to the UNSC from time to time, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. J. AKBAR): (a) and (b) Government is of the view that India has all the credentials to be a permanent member in a reformed Security Council that reflects contemporary global realities, for which expansion in both permanent and non-permanent categories of membership is essential.

There is a small minority of countries known as the Uniting for Consensus (UfC) group [comprising Argentina, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Italy, Malta, Mexico, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, San Marino, Spain and Turkey] that would like to see expansion of the UNSC in only the non-permanent category and are opposed to an expansion of permanent membership altogether. Pakistan has made known its opposition to India's bid for permanent membership.

A large number of countries have supported efforts to expand the Security Council in both permanent and non-permanent categories and have also endorsed India's candidature for permanent membership in an expanded and reformed Security Council. Four out of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council have bilaterally expressed official affirmations of support for India's candidature to a permanent seat in an expanded UN Security Council. In the Joint Statement issued on the occasion of the visit of the Prime Minister to China in May 2015 it is also stated that "China attaches great importance to India's status in international affairs as a large developing country, and understands and supports India's aspiration to play a greater role in the United Nations including in the Security Council'.

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