

(c) the efforts made for early implementation of the US Global Entry Programme for Indian nationals, to benefit large number of Indian nationals for USA visit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. J. AKBAR): (a) The second India-US Strategic and Commercial Dialogue (S&CD) was held in New Delhi on 30 August 2016. The External Affairs Minister and the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Commerce and Industry of India co-chaired the dialogue with the US Secretary of State and the Secretary of Commerce. Both sides reviewed the progress made in the implementation of decisions taken during Prime Minister's visit to the US in June, 2016 and identified further steps to strengthen cooperation across the entire spectrum of the relationship.

(b) Indian side raised the importance of ensuring easier access for Indian professionals into the United States, including the issue of H-1B and L-1 visas. The US side noted India's concerns in this regard.

(c) A Memorandum of Understanding between Consular, Passport and Visa Division, Ministry of External Affairs of India, and US Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security of the United States, for the development of an International Expedited Traveller Initiative (Global Entry Programme) was signed in Washington DC on 3 June 2016. To operationalise the MOU and implement the Global Entry Program, the text of an Interconnection Security Agreement and its Addendum between Ministry of External Affairs (Consular, Passport and Visa Division) and the US Department of Homeland Security (US Customs and Border Protection) has been finalized.

Delay in nuclear deal with Japan

184. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T. : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons that Japan is delaying nuclear deal with India;

(b) what it has to study as has been announced by official sources from Japan; and

(c) what are the contentious issues and how Government is planning to thwart them and what is the problem with 'nullification' clause and why Japan is insisting on this clause?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. J. AKBAR): (a) The Agreement between the Government of the Republic of

India and the Government of Japan for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy was signed on November 11, 2016 during the visit of Prime Minister to Japan.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Dialogue with China for entry in NSG

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

(a) whether Government entered into any constructive and effective dialogue with China, which is vehemently opposing India's entry in Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), to change its stand in this regard; and

(b) if so, details thereof, and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. J. AKBAR): (a) and (b) Government has been engaging with all members of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) including China in the context of its interest in membership of the Group. In this regard, two rounds of talks have taken place between India and China recently, the first one on September 13, 2016 in New Delhi and the second on October 31, 2016 in Beijing. The talks have been substantive, frank and constructive.

Presence of China around bordering States of India

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

(a) whether China is building several national highways upto Indian border, from Tibet to Lhasa in Nepal, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether China is showing its footprints in Pakistan by way of constructing 800 kms. long road, connecting Karakoram pass with Gwadar port and also through several other projects which pass through Pak-occupied Kashmir and whether it is a strategic and diplomatic move by them; and

(c) steps being taken by Government to weaken the rising influence of China in above bordering States, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. J. AKBAR): (a) and (b) Government is not aware of any specific proposal regarding such national highway projects from China to Indian border through Nepal.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.