

(f) Government has, at various levels, highlighted the cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan and the support and patronage enjoyed by the internationally-designated terrorists and terrorist organisations in Pakistan. There is evolving consensus within the international community in the matter. The SAARC Summit could not be held in Islamabad in November 2016 due to view among the SAARC Member States that the prevalence of violence and terrorism in the region precludes conducive environment for hosting of SAARC Summit. Similar terrorism related concerns are reflected in the outcome documents of various regional/international forums including BRICS Summit, BRICS-BIMSTEC Outreach Initiatives, G-20, East Asia Summit, ASEAN-India Summit and the 6th Ministerial Conference of the Heart of Asia Istanbul Process on Afghanistan.

### **Strategic dialogue with China**

3848. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the recent strategic dialogue with China was positive and constructive as it has urged to take a balanced and objective view;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the two sides had open and useful exchanges on Afghanistan, the United Nations, counter terrorism and nuclear issues;

(d) whether in some cases, both sides found common ground and in others it was felt that dialogue should continue further; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) to (e) Foreign Secretary Dr. S. Jaishankar held the first restructured India- China Strategic Dialogue with his counterpart Mr. Zhang Yesui, Executive Vice Minister in the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 22 February 2017 in Beijing. The Strategic Dialogue was preceded by senior official level dialogues between India and China covering issues of Afghanistan, multilateral diplomacy including counter- terrorism, nuclear issues as well as bilateral relations. During his visit, Foreign Secretary also called on State Councillor Mr. Yang Jiechi and Foreign Minister Mr. Wang Yi. During these meetings, the two sides held in-depth discussions on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest and concern. The Dialogue was useful in conveying to the Chinese side our priorities and concerns and also gaining from them an appreciation of their understanding of the world situation and in what manner we could work together.