

Hassan and Mysuru in Phase-I and seven POPSK at Bellary, Bidar, Raichur, Shivamogga, Tumakuru, Udipi and Vijayapur in Phase-II in Karnataka.

(b) Out of these eleven POPSK, one POPSK announced in Phase-I at Mysuru has become functional. It was inaugurated as the Pilot Project of this Scheme on 25 January, 2017. The Government intends to complete the requisite formalities for the remaining locations like preparation of the site, procurement of IT and non-IT equipment for setting up of the remaining ten POPSK in Karnataka at the earliest.

Bilateral dialogue with China

666.SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and China were recently engaged in bilateral dialogue for maintaining peace on the border of both the countries to promote bilateral relations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action plan has been drawn to ease the tension on the borders and to further improve relations between both of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD) V. K. SINGH]: (a) to (c) The 10th round of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) was held in Beijing on 17 November 2017. The two delegations comprised diplomatic and military officials from each side.

The talks were held in a constructive and forward-looking manner. Both sides reviewed the situation in all sectors of India-China border and agreed that maintenance of peace and tranquility in the border areas is an important prerequisite for sustained growth of bilateral relations. In this regard, the two sides also exchanged views on further confidence building measures and strengthening of military-to- military contacts.

WMCC was established in 2012 as an institutional mechanism for consultation and coordination for the maintenance of peace and tranquility in the India-China border areas, as well as to exchange views on strengthening communication and cooperation, including between their border security personnel.

The two sides agreed to hold the next meeting of the WMCC at a mutually convenient time.