

Emigration Management framework. A Committee has already been set up to undertake review of the existing framework and drafting the Bill.

Pro Khalistan activities in London

1772. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the campaign calling for a global referendum to determine whether Sikhs should have their own independent State was launched in London;

(b) whether the pro-Khalistan group would hold its first global rally at Trafalgar Square in London on August 12, 2018;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether India has lodged its protest against holding of such a rally and against the movement that is spearheading Pro Khalistan activities; 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) According to reports, a US based Sikh advocacy group called 'Sikhs for Justice' (SFJ) plans to hold an event at Trafalgar Square in London on 12 August, 2018. At the event, the group proposes to issue a so-called 'London Declaration', calling for independence of the State of Punjab from India.

The Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and the Indian High Commission in London have sent separate Note Verbales requesting the UK Government to deny permission for the event. On 11th July 2018, the Indian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom raised the matter in a demarche with Mr. Mark Field, Minister of State for Asia at the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office and asked the British Government to deny permission for this event.

Measures for geo-political balance and security

1773. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken by Government to ensure geo-political balance and security in the light of recent tensions across the border; and

(b) the response of Government to China's increasing military spending during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH): (a) Given the constantly evolving geo-political and security scenario in India's immediate and extended neighbourhood, the Government follows a pragmatic and outcome-oriented foreign policy, guided by the vision of a connected neighbourhood leading to shared security and prosperity. Policy initiatives taken by the Government in the last more than four years, such as the informal Summit-level meetings, 'Neighbourhood First' policy, 'Act East' policy, SAGAR maritime doctrine, 'Indo-Pacific' vision, focus on expanding regional connectivity, and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) etc. are all elements of this multi-faceted approach to India's international relations.

(b) Government has seen reports about increase in military spending by China.

Government keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's security and takes all necessary measures to safeguard it.

Indonesia opening sea port for India

1774. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indonesia proposes to open the sea port for India;

(b) if so, whether India proposes to set up deep sea port in the marine-line of Andaman sea;

(c) whether India also proposes to set up economic zone with its counterpart; and

(d) if so, the proposal of the counterpart in building bi-lateral relations with our country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH): (a) to (d) During the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Indonesia on 29-30 May, 2018, the two sides agreed to upgrade bilateral relationship from strategic partnership, which was established in 2005, to a New Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. The two sides agreed to expand bilateral cooperation in economic, investment and infrastructure field. The Joint Statement