

- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH]: (a) and (b) India is of the firm view that as two large countries having wider regional and global interests, India and China must pursue their relationships with other countries in a manner that does not become a source of concern for each other, and is based on mutual respect and sensitivity to each other's concerns and aspirations.

Under its 'Neighbourhood First' policy, Government is committed to developing friendly and mutually beneficial relations with all its neighbours. India is an active economic partner of its neighbours and is involved in a large number of development projects in these countries. India also has extensive ties with its neighbours in diverse fields including defence and security cooperation, trade and investment, education, culture and people-to-people exchanges.

#### **Extradition of Vijay Mallya**

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

(a) whether Government has taken any concrete steps to support/help the efforts of Ministry of Home Affairs in Extraditing Vijay Mallya from the United Kingdom;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH]: (a) Yes.

(b) A formal extradition request was handed by Ministry of External Affairs to the British High Commission in New Delhi on 9 February 2017. A copy of the same was also sent to the High Commission of India (HCI), London for follow up. A letter was sent to the UK Central Authority (UKCA) by the HCI, London on 9 February 2017. After certification by the Secretary of State, Home Office UK, Vijay Mallya was arrested and produced before the Westminster Magistrate's Court on 18 April 2017. At the conclusion of the bearing, he was granted conditional bail.

The matter is currently *sub judice* at the Westminster Magistrate's Court in London, where hearing for Final Arguments on Closing Submissions of the Case has been fixed on 31 July 2018.

(c) Does not arise.