

**Visit of Norwegian Prime Minister**

457. SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Norwegian Prime Minister has pledged to work in cooperation with India on UN Security Council Reforms and Terrorism; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the details of agreements/MoUs exchanged between India and Norway during the visit?

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

(b) The Prime Minister of Norway, H.E. Ms. Erna Solberg visited India from 7-9 January, 2019. During the visit, she had a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister on 08 January, 2019. The two leaders discussed the issue of reform of the United Nations including the UN Security Council and its expansion in both permanent and non-permanent seats. Norway agreed that India is a strong candidate for a permanent seat in a reformed Security Council. The two leaders strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and agreed to cooperate in combating international terrorism. They also urged the international community to work towards early finalization of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism mooted by India at the UN.

An MoU on India-Norway Ocean Dialogue was signed and exchanged during the visit.

**Meeting with Russian and Chinese foreign ministers**

458. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any meeting have been held with Russian and Chinese foreign ministers for holding discussions between the three countries; and

(b) if so, to what extent these countries have formulated action plan to give a fillip to their relationship and have agreed to have concrete plans of action on various issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) and (b) The Foreign Ministers of India, Russia and China meet annually under the mechanism of Russia-India-China (RIC) Foreign Ministerial meeting to exchange views on various issues of mutual interest.