

(b) if so, the details of such funds given to research organisations and think tanks during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) and (b) Financial support is provided to various research organizations and think tanks from the Ministry's budgetary allocations to support activities and events related to foreign and national security policy. These include autonomous bodies such as ICWA, IDSA and RIS, as well as independent organizations, located both at New Delhi and in other parts of India such as Chennai, Kolkata, Mumbai and Pune. The year-wise funding by MEA to various research organizations was ₹ 28,33,57,119 in 2016-17, ₹ 27,88,90,027 in 2017-18 and ₹35,38,58,155 in 2018-19.

#### **Neighbourhood First policy**

3692. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the goals of the Neighbourhood First policy of the Government;
- (b) the status of the goals, at present; and
- (c) the future steps, if any, proposed to be taken in accordance with the policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) to (c) Under its 'Neighbourhood First' policy, Government is committed to developing friendly and mutually beneficial relations with all its neighbours. India is an active development partner and is involved in several projects in these countries. India's policy of 'Neighbourhood First' focuses on creating mutually beneficial, people-oriented, regional frameworks for stability and prosperity. Our engagement with these countries is based on a consultative, non-reciprocal and outcome-oriented approach, which focuses on delivering benefits like greater connectivity, improved infrastructure, stronger development cooperation in various sectors area, security and broader people-to-people contacts.

With Pakistan, the Government desires normal neighbourly relations and is committed to addressing all outstanding issues bilaterally and peacefully in accordance with the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration. However, any meaningful dialogue can only be held in an atmosphere free from terror, hostility and violence. The onus is on Pakistan to create such a conducive atmosphere.