

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 95
ANSWERED ON 13.02.2025

CHINESE INFLUENCE ON INDIA'S FRIENDLY COUNTRIES

*95. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware of the growing Chinese influence on India's friendly countries, including our neighbouring countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken by the Ministry, if any, to strengthen confidence of the friendly countries on India and to expand co-operation on bilateral and multilateral fronts; and
- (d) the details in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a to d): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (D) IN RESPECT OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 95 FOR REPLY ON 13.02.2025 REGARDING CHINESE INFLUENCE ON INDIA'S FRIENDLY COUNTRIES ASKED BY SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA.

India's relationship with any country stands on its own footing and is independent of the relations of these countries with third countries.

Government keeps a vigilant watch on all developments, including in the neighbouring countries, which have a bearing on India's national security, and takes all necessary measures to safeguard it.

Neighbourhood First Policy continues to guide our approach to our neighbouring countries. It has resulted in outcome-oriented engagements, strong development partnerships, physical, digital and economic connectivity as well as vibrant people to people and cultural exchanges. We are confident of the structural strength of these ties and believe that they have a unique value for our partners.

As a Vishwa-Bandhu, India has taken initiatives in providing solutions to many contemporary global problems. India has constructively, and in concrete ways, championed the cause of holistic human-centric development and self-reliance capabilities of countries in the Global South. Throughout its G20 Presidency, India worked to ensure that the concerns and priorities of the Global South received due cognizance in various verticals of the G20, and were duly factored in finding solutions to the most pressing contemporary global challenges.

India has consistently piloted new initiatives at multilateral and plurilateral groupings, including the International Solar Alliance (ISA), the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) and the Mission Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE). These and other such initiatives not only speak for India and put forward India's viewpoint on global issues such as reformed multilateralism, peace and security, climate change, transnational crime, terrorism, cyber-security, energy and food security etc., but serve as the voice of peace, security and prosperity for all.

भारत सरकार
विदेश मंत्रालय
राज्य सभा
तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या-95
दिनांक 13.02.2025 को उत्तर दिए जाने के लिए

भारत के मित्र देशों पर चीन का प्रभाव

*95. श्री राजीव शुक्ला:

क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार को भारत के मित्र देशों पर, जिनमें हमारे पड़ोसी देश भी शामिल हैं, चीन के बढ़ते प्रभाव की जानकारी है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) सरकार ने भारत के प्रति मित्र देशों के विश्वास को मजबूत करने तथा द्विपक्षीय और बहुपक्षीय मोर्चों पर सहयोग बढ़ाने के लिए यदि कोई कदम उठाए हैं तो वे क्या हैं; और

(घ) तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

उत्तर

विदेश राज्य मंत्री
(श्री कीर्तवर्धन सिंह)

(क से घ): विवरण सदन के पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

भारत के मित्र देशों पर चीनी प्रभाव के संबंध में श्री राजीव शुक्ला द्वारा पूछे गए राज्य सभा के दिनांक 13.02.2025 के तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या 95 के भाग (क) से (घ) के उत्तर में उल्लिखित विवरण ।

किसी भी देश के साथ भारत के संबंध स्वावलंबी होते हैं और अन्य देशों के साथ उन देशों के संबंधों से स्वतंत्र हैं।

सरकार पड़ोसी देशों में घट रहे घटनाक्रमों सहित उन सभी घटनाक्रमों पर कड़ी नजर रखती है जिनका भारत की राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा पर प्रभाव पड़ता है, तथा देश की सुरक्षा के लिए सभी आवश्यक उपाय करती है।

पड़ोसी देशों के प्रति हमारा दृष्टिकोण हमेशा पड़ोस प्रथम नीति द्वारा निर्देशित रहा है। इसके परिणामस्वरूप परिणामोन्मुखी संबंध, मजबूत विकास साझेदारी, वास्तविक, डिजिटल और आर्थिक संपर्क तथा लोगों के बीच जीवंत संबंध और सांस्कृतिक आदान-प्रदान संभव हुए हैं। हम इन संबंधों की संरचनात्मक मजबूती के प्रति आश्वस्त हैं तथा हमारा यह विश्वास है कि हमारे साझेदारों के लिए इनका अद्वितीय महत्व है।

विश्व-बंधु के रूप में, भारत ने अनेक समकालीन वैश्विक समस्याओं के निदान की दिशा में पहल की है। भारत ने रचनात्मक रूप से और ठोस तरीकों से, वैश्विक दक्षिण देशों के समग्र मानव-केंद्रित विकास और आत्मनिर्भरता संबंधी क्षमताओं के लिए प्रमुखता से कार्य किया है। अपनी जी-20 अध्यक्षता के दौरान भारत ने यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए प्रयास किया कि जी-20 के विभिन्न कार्यक्षेत्रों में वैश्विक दक्षिण की चिंताओं और प्राथमिकताओं का उचित संज्ञान लिया जाए और महत्वपूर्ण समकालीन वैश्विक चुनौतियों का समाधान खोजने में उन्हें उचित रूप से शामिल किया गया।

भारत ने बहुआयामी और बहुपक्षीय समूहों में लगातार नई पहलें की हैं, जिसमें अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सौर गठबंधन (आईएसए), आपदा रोधी अवसंरचना गठबंधन (सीडीआरआई), हिंद-प्रशांत महासागर पहल (आईपीओआई) और पर्यावरण अनुकूलन जीवन शैली मिशन (एलआईएफई) शामिल हैं। ये और इस प्रकार की अन्य पहलें न केवल भारत का पक्ष रखती हैं बल्कि पुनर्गठित बहुपक्षवाद, शांति और सुरक्षा, जलवायु परिवर्तन, अंतरराष्ट्रीय अपराध, आतंकवाद, साइबर सुरक्षा, ऊर्जा और खाद्य सुरक्षा आदि जैसे वैश्विक मुद्दों पर भारत के दृष्टिकोण को आगे रखती हैं और इसके साथ-साथ सभी के लिए शांति, सुरक्षा और समृद्धि का भी आह्वान करती हैं।

SHRI SUJEET KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, since 1950s, China has been illegally squatting on 36,000 square kilometers of our land in Aksai Chin largely because of the incompetence and ineptitude handling of the Government of the day and the then Prime Minister. Because Aksai Chin is an integral part of India, we show it in our maps and Bangladesh has been showing both Aksai Chin and Arunachal Pradesh in its map since 1971. But, recently, THE Chinese Government has asked Bangladesh not to show Aksai Chin and Arunachal in its map. Sir, is the Ministry going to do something about it? This has happened after the change of Government in Bangladesh. We should intervene and tell Bangladesh Government in no uncertain terms that they cannot do so. Would the Minister elaborate?

SHRI KIRTIVARDHAN SINGH: Sir, the hon. Member has raised a very old issue. With the recent change in political dispensation in Bangladesh, we are taking full cognizance and we are keeping full watch on the developments there. We take all possible measures to safeguard our security, national integrity and our national borders. Regarding the matter which the hon. Member has raised, this is a matter which is not really very relevant to the question that was asked. The question deals with the growing influence of China in our neighbouring countries and what we are doing to counteract it. This is a particular matter related to the Defence Ministry and Home Minister. Sir, I would seek your protection regarding this question. I assure the hon. Member that any further details that he want, it can be sought from the Ministry.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you hon. Minister. Hon. Minister has committed. He will give you the details. Shri Milind Murlu Deora.

SHRI MILIND MURLI DEORA: Sir, I thank you for indulging me and giving me the time. This time, my question is more specific relating to the topic. The question is about China's influence on India's friendly countries. One issue we should keep in mind, especially, my young friends, who are MoSs in this Ministry, is that after Donald Trump became the President of the U.S., there is a move to shut down an organisation called USAID, which provides assistance to many countries, especially, in the global South. With the collapse of the USAID's funds to the global South, especially, South-East Asia and other regions where India enjoys very good relations, before anyone else fills that vacuum, it would be a good idea if the Government increases its developmental assistance from India to ensure that no hostile country towards India fill that gap.

SHRI KIRTIVARDHAN SINGH: Sir, regarding our neighbourhood countries, we have established a very comprehensive and well-oiled mechanisms for bilateral engagements with all our partner countries. Our foreign policy is also multi-dimensional with omni-directional approach under the hon. Prime Minister's guidance of following our ancient custom of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*. Providing of development assistance and capacity building as per the needs of the aspirations of our neighbours remains the highlight of our policy of neighbourhood first. Under BIMSTEC, we have hosted disaster management exercises, centres for weather, climate and energy and also provided a number of capacity building support.

(MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair*.)

Sir, we continue to support our neighbours in their development needs and capacity building and continue to bolster our trade and economic ties. Regardless of the change in the situation in the world, we will continue to maintain our relations and we continue to accord highest priority to our relations with our neighbours. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Third supplementary; Dr. M. Thambidurai.

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: Sir, China is encroaching the Indian economy for marketing their products. I also want to know from the Minister whether we are having good relations with our neighbours. Sri Lanka is one of the neighbouring countries. Now the new Government has come over in Sri Lanka. The Sri Lankan President came and met our Prime Minister here and also went to China. In these circumstances, when we are already facing a lot of issues like Katchatheevu issue and fisherman issue, if China is influencing Sri Lanka, what actions is the Central Government taking to protect our fishermen and Indian interest when Sri Lanka is creating problems? The relationship between China and Sri Lanka is getting very close. It is threatening to India and Tamil people also. I just want to know what steps the Government is going to take.

SHRI KIRTIVARDHAN SINGH: Sir, I would like to reiterate that India's relationships with our neighbouring countries are based on historical ties, cultural exchanges, people-to-people contact and ancient trade routes. Sir, regardless of what the other country in the world is doing, we continue to accord highest priority to our relationship

with our neighbours and we continue to proceed on our development assistance and any other assistance that our neighbors require, including a security assistant.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour over...

SHRI KIRTIVARDHAN SINGH: Sir, he raised a sensitive issue regarding the Sri Lankan fishermen.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Complete it. Be brief.

SHRI KIRTIVARDHAN SINGH: Sir, I would like to remind the hon. Member that this question is already listed in the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour over.
