

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3248
ANSWERED ON:04.02.2004
SHELTER BY CHINA TO ULFA
KAMAL NATH;SHYAMA SINGH;UTTAMRAO DEORAO PATIL

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware that ULFA organizations have now sought refuge in China as reported in the Statesman dated December 29, 2003.

(b) if so, whether the Government has taken up the matter with the Chinese Government and other neighbouring countries not to provide any shelter to ULFA organizations;

(c) if not, the details thereof ; and

(d) the response of the neighbouring countries in this regard.

Answer

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

(a),(b),(c) & (d) `Media reports regarding a letter addressed to the Chinese Government by ULFA, requesting safe passage through Chinese territory for members of insurgent groups seeking to escape the armed operations against them being carried out by the Royal Government of Bhutan, were brought to the attention of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in New Delhi. The Embassy was requested to convey this information to the Chinese Government for appropriate action.

In response, the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi has conveyed that the Chinese government attaches great importance to the development of its friendly and cooperation relations with India; that China has always followed the policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries and will not allow its territory to be used by anybody for activities against other countries; that the Chinese side has not received any letter of the kind referred to in media report; that it will closely monitor the development of the situation; that they believe that the Chinese frontier forces are capable of safeguarding the security and stability of their border areas; and that the Chinese side has taken note of the concern of the Indian side in this regard and would keep in touch with the Indian side on these matters`.

The matter of Indian insurgent activities in Bangladesh has been repeatedly taken up at various levels with the Government of Bangladesh, most recently during the DG level talks between the BSF and the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) held from 5-9th January 2004. Similarly, the matter of Indian insurgent activities in Myanmar has been taken up at various levels with the Government of Myanmar. Both countries affirm that they will not permit such activities within their territories.

We have a bilateral mechanism with Nepal under which regular meetings/ exchange of views on matters of mutual interest take place. Nepal understands our concerns and generally acts keeping our interests in mind.