

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:178

ANSWERED ON:23.11.2005

RESOLVING INDO- CHINA BORDER DISPUTE

Jagannath Dr. M.;Khanna Shri Avinash Rai;Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai;Varma Shri Ratilal Kalidas

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether China has deferred the dates for opening of Nathula pass for border trade between the two countries;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the PM also met the heads of States of Pakistan and China during his visit to US;
- (d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (e) whether China has agreed for early resolution of border issues;
- (f) if so, whether any meeting has been fixed for the purpose; and (g) if so, the details thereof and the time frame by which a decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a)&(b) The operationalisation of border trade through the Nathula Pass requires necessary infrastructure to be put in place on both sides. Government are in constant touch with the Chinese side on this matter to commence the border trade through the Nathula Pass at an early date.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Prime Minister met the Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf and the Chinese President Hu Jintao on September 14, 2005 in New York on the sidelines of the Plenary Meeting of the 60th UN General Assembly Session. During Prime Minister's meeting with the Pakistani President, the two leaders reviewed progress in India-Pakistan relations since they last met in New Delhi on April 18, 2005. The two leaders referred to the earlier statements of January 6, 2004 and April 18, 2005 and reiterated their pledge that they would not allow terrorism to impede the peace process. They also welcomed the progress made within the framework of the composite dialogue, including promotion of trade and economic relations, people to people contacts and confidence building measures. They also welcomed the recent release of prisoners on both sides and agreed to continue this process on a humanitarian basis. The two leaders expressed their commitment to ensure a peaceful settlement of all pending issues including Jammu and Kashmir. They agreed that possible options for a peaceful, negotiated settlement in this regard should continue to be pursued in a sincere spirit and purposeful manner. During the meeting between Prime Minister and the Chinese President, both leaders reviewed the recent positive developments in India-China relations. They expressed satisfaction over the on-going negotiations between the Special Representatives for the resolution of the India-China boundary question and agreed to seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution with greater urgency. The two leaders expressed satisfaction over the growing trade and economic relations between the two countries, and exchanged views on regional and international issues of common interest.

(e) Both India and China have expressed the conviction that an early settlement of the boundary question will advance the basic interests of the two countries and should therefore be pursued as a strategic objective.

(f) India and China have each appointed a Special Representative to explore from the political perspective of the overall bilateral relationship the framework of a boundary settlement. There have been six meetings so far between the Special Representatives of India and China on the boundary question. The sixth round of talks between the Special Representatives was held in Beijing from September 26 to September 28, 2005.

(g) The sixth round of talks between the Special Representatives marked the beginning of the second phase of negotiations under the mechanism of Special Representatives. During this phase, the Special Representatives are mandated to work out an agreed framework for a boundary settlement on the basis of the 'Agreement on Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for Settlement of India-China Boundary Question', which was signed during the visit of the Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao to India on April 11, 2005. Such an agreed framework will provide the basis for the delineation and demarcation of the India-China boundary to be subsequently undertaken by civil and military officials and surveyors of the two sides. No timeframe has been fixed for the final settlement of the boundary question.