

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:139  
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2007  
FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEET  
Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Mane Smt. Nivedita

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether any meeting of the Foreign Ministers of India, Russia and China was held in New Delhi recently;
- (b) if so, the details of the issues discussed and the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether any agreements were signed on the occasion;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the benefits which are likely to be accrued to India as a result of these agreements; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to strengthen the relations with Russia and China?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) to (e) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (E) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 139 REGARDING 'FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEET' FOR ANSWER ON 07.03.2007

(a, b, c & d) The Foreign Ministers of India, Russia and China met in New Delhi on 14th February 2007. The discussions during the meeting covered the current global situation, regional developments of common concern, counter-terrorism efforts and trilateral economic cooperation in areas such as energy, transport infrastructure, health, high technologies, including information technology and biotechnology. The three sides will hold official and expert level discussions in these areas.

Although no agreements were signed, the three sides issued a Joint Communiqué after the meeting (copy enclosed).

India, Russia and China agreed that a trilateral business forum will be held in India during 2007. India proposed that it would host a trilateral seminar on emerging geo-strategic trends with the participation of officials and scholars in 2007.

(e) The Government of India engages with the Governments of Russia and China to promote mutually beneficial cooperation with each country and India has bilateral agreements with Russia and with China over a wide range of topics. In addition, there are frequent high-level exchanges in various formats with Russia and with China to further strengthen cooperation with the two countries.

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ ON THE RESULTS OF THE TRILATERAL MEETING OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF INDIA, RUSSIA AND CHINA REFERRED TO IN THE REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 139 REGARDING 'FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEET' FOR ANSWER ON 07.03.2007

A trilateral meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Republic of India, the Russian Federation, and the People's Republic of China was held in New Delhi on February 14, 2007.

The Ministers noted that the mechanism of trilateral meetings is a manifestation of enhanced mutual understanding and trust among the three countries and positively assessed the outcome of their meetings. They agreed that the Summit level trilateral meeting held in St. Petersburg on July 17, 2006 on the sidelines of the G-8 Summit demonstrated the willingness of the three sides to carry forward consultations on issues of shared interest, at the highest political level, with the aim of promoting the development objectives of the three countries as well as peace, security and stability in the region and the world. They reaffirmed that trilateral cooperation was not directed against the interests of any other country and was, on the contrary, intended to promote international harmony and understanding and find common ground amidst divergent interests. They also emphasized the strong commitment of India, Russia and China to multilateral diplomacy.

The Ministers discussed the political, security and economic aspects of the current global situation, besides exchanging views on how international relations are being presently conducted. They noted that globalization opens up opportunities for a more even distribution of development resources and influence in the world thus creating a foundation for a more stable and balanced international system. They also emphasized the need to preserve the cultural and civilizational diversity of the contemporary world and to promote the existing initiatives for dialogue among civilizations and religions. They expressed their conviction that democratization of international

relations is the key to building an increasingly multi-polar world order that would be based on principles of equality of nations - big or small, respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of countries, international law and mutual respect. The Ministers acknowledged that the UN is an appropriate instrument for promoting and attaining such a world order. The Sides stressed the importance of reforms at the UN, including the UN Security Council, in order to deal with the myriad challenges of today's world more effectively. They shared the view that member states should aim to make the UN more transparent, efficient and reflective of contemporary realities. The Sides agreed to take steps in this direction. In this context, the Foreign Ministers of Russia and China reiterated that their countries attach great importance to the status of India in international affairs, and understand and support India's aspirations to play a greater role in the United Nations.

The Ministers noted that international terrorism continued to pose a grave threat to all nations and expressed concern about the new and evolving forms of the menace. They agreed that under central and coordinating role of the UN and within the framework of its Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy collective action must be strengthened further by taking into account the mutating character of terrorism and its networks. They agreed that an early entry into force of International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and the earliest possible adoption in the UN of the India-sponsored draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism would lead to further consolidation of the international legal basis for combating terrorism. The Sides underlined the substantial potential of their counter-terrorism cooperation in regional organizations. They agreed that there can be no justification for any act of terrorism, irrespective of motivations, wherever and by whosoever committed. They stressed that selective approaches in counter-terrorism cannot yield sustainable results and it should be combated in a consistent, sustained and comprehensive manner without any double standards. The Sides also agreed to coordinate action against all factors that feed international terrorism, including its financing, illegal drug trafficking and trans-national organized crime.

The Ministers agreed that India, Russia and China, as countries with growing international influence, can make substantive positive contribution to global peace, security and stability. In this context, the Ministers exchanged views on various regional and international issues of concern. They agreed that cooperation rather than confrontation should govern approaches to regional and global affairs. While welcoming India's joining the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) as an observer country, the Foreign Ministers of Russia and China stated that they would actively facilitate early realization of mutually beneficial contribution of India to the SCO.

The Ministers paid specific attention to the high potential of trilateral cooperation and synergy in the economic field. The Ministers reiterated the considerable potential for mutually beneficial economic interaction among the three countries in areas such as energy, transport infrastructure, health, high technologies, including IT and biotechnology. Recognizing the important role of the business and industrial circles of the three consistently growing and large economies, the Ministers agreed to advise their respective apex business bodies to organize a trilateral business forum taking into account the capabilities and potential of the three countries. The Ministers agreed to monitor this process with a view to facilitating the agreed business meeting which would take place during 2007.

The Ministers expressed satisfaction at the results of the trilateral meeting in New Delhi and agreed to hold their next meeting in China.

New Delhi  
February 14, 2007