

[Translation]

Chinese Delegation

*64. SHRI ANAND AHIRWAR:
SHRI CHARANJEET
YADAV:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Chinese delegation visited India recently to hold talks with Indian counterparts in pursuance of the agreement on peace and tranquillity along the line of Actual Control on the India-China border;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether any agreement was signed during the visit;

(d) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(e) the progress made in regard to comprehensive settlement of boundary issue between the two countries?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) A Chinese delegation visited India for the first meeting of the India-China Expert Group held in New Delhi from February 2-4, 1994.

(b) to (d) In its first meeting, the Expert Group reached basic agreement on many issues relating to its mandate, future tasks and methodology. No

agreement was signed during this meeting.

(e) There has been an all-round improvement in India-China relations over the last few years. On the complicated boundary question, Government have maintained a useful dialogue with China on this issue in an atmosphere free of rancour. The two countries are committed to work towards a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution to this question. It is hoped that concrete steps taken by India and China to enhance mutual confidence and harmony in the border areas will help in creating a climate that is conducive to a boundary settlement.

[Translation]

SHRI ANAND AHIRWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all, I congratulate the Indian Government and specially the Prime Minister that he is determined and has always been making efforts to improve our relations with our neighbouring countries. The Chinese delegation had agreed on many basic issues when it visited India. I would like to know, through you, from the hon. Minister as to what are the main factors which play an important role in the maintenance of peace, tranquillity law and order, and development of the country?

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: As I have said earlier, it was an expert group to whom was assigned the task of giving suggestions to bring the needed changes on the line of Actual Control. It was asked to give its opinion on very few issues. It was asked to work according to the mandate, and to chalk out a programme for future and suggest the modalities. The task of the expert group was limited. The group did not take any decisions on substantial issues, neither was it

authorised to do so. They could only recommend within these parameters.

[English]

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, after 18 years of my membership in Lok Sabha, I found that my name has been wrongly printed. My name should be corrected.

MR. SPEAKER: The rose will smell the same by any other name.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: Thank you very much.

The hon. Minister has said that this Expert Group had reached some common agreements and it had made certain recommendations; it had agreed to certain modalities for the future task of the Indo-China Joint Commission. May I know as to what are the main recommendations of this Expert Group? Are they only confined to the border issues or do they suggest certain things to improve our trade relations and also our joint actions in this Asian region?

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: Sir, I would like to explain the mandate given to this Expert Group. They are: clarification of the line of actual control, that is, the two sides to jointly check and determine the segments of the line of actual control, where they have different views; force re-deployment, that is, to work out the extent, depth, timing and nature of reduction of military forces along with the LAC on the basis of principle of mutual and equal security; other confidence building measures such as prior notification on military exercise, meeting of border personnel and prevention of air intrusions; and verification measures for

the reduction of military force and the maintenance of peace and tranquillity. This Expert had discussed all these modalities.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government has been saying since long that China has occupied a large part of our territory. Regarding the delegation that had come for talks, it has been learnt from the newspapers that India is going to give up its claim on Aksai Chin. I want to know clearly from the Minister, whether India will cease or will continue its claims on the territory, which it claims, was occupied by China, after the 1962 war.

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the news published in the papers is baseless. In our talks, it has been decided that we should make changes on either side of the line of control, where both sides have differences. It is wrong to say that we have ceded any territory to China or intend to do so. Our position is same, as before ...*(Interruptions)* I will reply to his question, not yours. This is what I have been asked to do. The news appearing in press that we were going to cede any territory to China is wrong. On this matter, the expert group will give its recommendations and it would be placed before the Parliament. The Parliament is empowered to accept it or not.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If the hon. Minister wants to reply to the first question, he can do so.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I only wanted to clarify that

we are not discussing the border issue with China. Let us not confuse the issues. This was only the Line of Actual Control and we want peace and tranquillity on that. So, if there is any difference on that, this Expert Group tries to resolve that. The hon. Member raised something about the border issue, I do not think that we should bring it in just now. We are having good relations with China and both the countries are trying to build confidence with each other. Let us continue with this very important issue.

Therefore, let us not say something which the newspapers may print but which should not be brought in this House.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Sir, the relations between India and China are vital not only to the peace and stability of Asia but also for the world. The only issue of dispute which we have inherited is the boundary issue. The boundary dispute by its nature is very complex and has its implications on national politics as the question of Shri Mohan Singh has clearly identified. There is a requirement of national consensus. I would like to know whether the Government is taking any step to evolve a national consensus to formalise our approach and secondly whether the Expert Group has identified the areas of dispute on the Line of Actual Control and the modalities for resolving the same.

SHRI DINESH SINGH: From the early times, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, always said that there is no dispute between China and India on border issue. The border is traditionally known. It is only a question of arriving at an understanding on it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: Through you, Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware of the resolution accepted unanimously by the Lok Sabha that concerted effort would be made to take back the entire Aksai Chin region from China? If you are aware of this, will you make efforts in this meeting or at some other time to take back the territory occupied by China in 1962? China has occupied thousands of kilometres of our long territory.

SHRI DINESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my submission is that boundary dispute should not be raised now.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Joshi you may, have a talk with Shri Vajpayee in this regard.

[*English*]

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: Should we surrender? Are you saying that we should surrender?

MR. SPEAKER: I think, that question has already been replied.

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI: Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether it has come to his notice that recently one book was released by the former External Affairs Minister of Government of India, Shri Natwar Singh, wherein it is written that merger of Sikkim with India has not been recognized by China as yet. I would like to know whether this statement is correct or not.

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: As I said, this was an Expert Group...

MR. SPEAKER: This has not come in the discussion. That is the answer.

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: It has no mandate. It has a limited task.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Sir, one of the areas which the representatives from both China and India were discussing, is border trade relations. May I know from the Minister whether the areas have been identified where the trade relationship can be developed?

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: Sir, we have had discussions with them with regard to opening more areas for border trade. At present trade is going on at Lepichek and now we have also asked for the Shipkai area in Himachal Pradesh to be opened for border trade. This is under consideration.

MR. SPEAKER: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Interview by Indonesian Minister on Farakka Issue

*65. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the Bangladesh

newspaper "New Nation" dated November 5, 1993 regarding an interview given by the Health Minister of Indonesia on Farakka issue;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken up this matter with Indonesia;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the newspaper report, the Health Minister of Indonesia stated that India had no right to unilaterally withdraw the waters of the Ganges and that the UN should take care of the Farakka issue immediately.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs conveyed to our Embassy in Jakarta that their Health Minister was misreported by the said newspaper and that the observations attributed to him on the Farakka issue were without any basis.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Doordarshan Programmes

*66. SHRI SOBHANADREES WARARAO VADDE:

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state: