

### Relations with Neighbouring Countries

○ 959. DR. GUNVANT RAMBHAU SARODE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) The present position of India's bilateral relations with the neighbouring countries; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to strengthen its relations with neighbouring countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The information is given in the Statement attached.

#### STATEMENT

##### *Bangladesh*

(a) & (b) India's relations with Bangladesh continue to be friendly. Both countries recognise the immense potential for bilateral trade, commerce and investment and special focus is being placed on developing the relationship in these areas.

##### *Maldives*

(a) & (b) Relations with Maldives are cordial. Government of India continue to assist the Government of Maldives in achieving their various infrastructural targets and growth objectives under various schemes. High level interactions also add to the substantive content of the relationship.

##### *Myanmar*

(a) & (b) Relations with Myanmar have developed further. An Agreement on Increasing Contracts between Civilian Border Authorities has been implemented, under which four Sectoral Level Meetings have already taken place on trans-border trafficking in drugs and narcotic substances, and anti-insurgent/smuggling operations. The Border Trade Agreement regulating the border trade between the two countries is to be operationalised soon.

##### *Sri Lanka*

(a) & (b) Relations with Sri Lanka continue to be based on mutual understanding and cordiality. Emphasis from both sides is on increasing trade and investment interaction so that the economies of both the countries could benefit.

##### *Nepal*

(a) & (b). India enjoys friendly relations with Nepal, which are characterised by close economic co-operation and high level contacts between the countries. Shri Madhav Kumar Nepal, Deputy Prime Minister of Nepal, visited India in February, 1995, and a series of high-level meetings are being organised to review bilateral co-operation.

##### *Bhutan*

(a) & (b) Relations with Bhutan continue to be friendly. Economic co-operation in areas like hydro-power, infrastructure development, education and training is further strengthening the existing relations between the countries. The 45 MW Kurichu Hydro-electric Project is under implementation and 1020 MW Hydro-electric Project is under consideration.

##### *China*

(a) & (b) There has been a perceptible improvement in India-China relations in recent years. Government are continuing their efforts to work towards the goal of establishing a long-term, stable and good neighbourly relations with China. There has been a significant expansion of trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. Exchanges have also increased substantially in areas like science and technology, culture, etc. The two sides have continued their efforts in the Joint Working Group to seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement to the boundary question. In the meantime, they are committed to observe the line of actual control under the Border Peace and Tranquility Agreement, signed in September 1993 during Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao's visit to China. The situation in India-China border areas is peaceful. Confidence building measures already instituted by India and China are working well, while the two countries are continuing their discussions on further such measures as well as on the implementation of the Border Peace and Tranquility Agreement.

##### *Pakistan*

(a) Pakistan's negative approach, its continued support to terrorists and subversive activities directed against India and its efforts to internationalise the Kashmir issue have vitiated the atmosphere of bilateral relations with India.

(b) Government are committed to resolving issues pertaining to bilateral relations with Pakistan peacefully and through process of bilateral negotiations as stipulated under the Simla Agreement. Government have repeatedly conveyed to Pakistan in the recent period our readiness to hold unconditional talks to address outstanding issues.

##### *[English]*

#### Rohini Residential Scheme

960. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rohini Residential Scheme was launched in Delhi in the year 1981 with a promise that each registrant would be provided with a plot within a period of five years;

(b) if so, whether thousands of registrants are still waiting for allotment;

(c) the reasons for the inordinate delay in the allotment of plots when all the land required for the project has since been acquired;

(d) whether a substantial number of plots have been sold through auction and the poor registrants are made to wait on that account;

(e) whether there is a proposal to stop auction of plots in Rohini till all the registrants in Rohini are allotted plots; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?