

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:563

ANSWERED ON:17.07.2002

VISIT OF NEPALESE KING

AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA;M.H. AMBAREESH;NEDURUMALLI JANARDHANA REDDY;P.R. KHUTE;PUNNULAL MOHALE;RAMPAL SINGH;RAOSAHEB PATIL DANVE;SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAI SI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the king of Nepal during his recent visit to India held wide ranging discussions with the Government;
- (b) if so, the details of the discussion held and the areas of cooperation agreed upon;
- (c) whether the Government have assured him help to combat the threat of insurgency in the kingdom;
- (d) if so, the manner in which India proposes to help Nepal in this regard;
- (e) whether a spurt in ISI and other extremist activities on the Indo-Nepal border were also discussed with the King of Nepal; and
- (f) if so, the extent of help promised by Nepal to eliminate such activities on the common borders?

Answer

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

(A), (b), (c), (d), (e) & (f)

A Statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PARTS (a) to (f) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 563 TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.07.2002 ON 'VISIT OF NEPALESE KING'

His Majesty King Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev, King of Nepal, paid a State visit to India from June 23-28, 2002, at the invitation of the President. This was King Gyanendra's first visit abroad after his enthronement. During the visit, King Gyanendra held talks with the President, the Vice President and the Prime Minister of India. Ministers of Home Affairs, External Affairs, Defence, and Human Resource Development, and the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission called on King Gyanendra. He also received the Leader of the Opposition. He also visited Kolkata and Guwahati.

2. Wide ranging discussions were held during the visit in an atmosphere of warmth and cordiality. The importance of further development of the close, friendly and time-tested ties between India and Nepal was underlined. India's commitment to Nepal's economic development and maintenance of peace, security and stability in the country was reiterated.

3. The issue of terrorism also figured in the discussions. Both King Gyanendra and the Indian leadership reiterated their countries' resolve to make joint efforts in fighting the scourge of terrorism which was adversely affecting peace and stability in the region.

4. The Indian leadership conveyed our serious concern to Nepal on the continuing activities of the ISI in Nepal and across the border into India. In this context, the need for closer co-ordination and increased vigil was stressed. King Gyanendra gave the assurance for enhanced co-operation in this regard and reiterated that Nepal would not allow its territory to be misused for activities directed against India.

5. King Gyanendra expressed gratitude for India's support in Nepal's fight against the Maoist insurgency, and sought continued co-operation of India for the steps taken by Government of Nepal to restore normalcy and order in the country. The Indian leadership reiterated its resolve to continue to support Nepal in its efforts for maintaining peace and security in the country.

6. India has strongly condemned the Maoist violence and extended support to the steps taken by Government of Nepal to restore normalcy and order in the country. India is providing assistance, as required by Nepal, including by way of equipment and training for the Royal Nepal Army and the Special Armed Police Force. Our border security has been strengthened and the Indian States bordering Nepal have been alerted to keep a close vigil along the border. The Special Services Bureau (SSB) personnel have been deployed along the India-Nepal border to strengthen security in the border areas.