

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:534

ANSWERED ON:27.07.2005

INDO- NEPAL TIES

Badiga Shri Ramakrishna;Pathak Shri Brajesh;Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the US Assistant Secretary of State visited India recently;
- (b) if so, whether the Nepal situation also came up for discussion;
- (c) whether the Union Government has agreed to provide assistance to Nepal to restore democracy and curb Maoists activities there;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that a certain section of the army is coming under attack from Maoists in Nepal;
- (f) if so, the facts and the details thereof;
- (g) whether India is supporting seven mainstream parties in Nepal as reported in the Hindustan Times dated May 22, 2005; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN THE ANSWER TO THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 534, TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.07.2005 ON 'INDO-NEPAL TIES'.

US Assistant Secretary of State Ms. Christina Rocca transited through Delhi on May 9, 2005, on her way to Nepal. While in Delhi, Ms. Rocca met officials of Ministry of External Affairs to exchange views and share assessments on the situation in Nepal. Government is deeply concerned about the situation in Nepal following the dismissal of the multi-party Government and assumption of direct powers by King Gyanendra on February 1, 2005. We are also concerned at the implications of the growth of Maoist activities in Nepal because of the open border and the links between Nepal's Maoists and Left Wing Extremists Groups and other insurgent groups in India. It is our firm belief that the multi-dimensional and complex challenges being faced by Nepal can be addressed effectively only on the basis of a national consensus for an eventual political settlement. As a first step, a process of national reconciliation and dialogue should begin. In this context, we have welcomed the common programme announced by major Nepalese political parties to address the challenges facing Nepal. Government of India remains committed to support all efforts aimed at restoring political stability and economic prosperity in Nepal. India has also provided assistance to Nepali security forces and has established institutional mechanisms to strengthen cross-border cooperation on security and other issues. Contrary to the reports in the media there has been no specific targeting of interests of serving soldiers or ex-servicemen of the Indian Army by the Maoists.