

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:322

ANSWERED ON:18.08.2004

SINO-INDIAN BORDER TALKS

Rai Shri Nakul Das;Swain Shri M.A. Kharabela

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the third round of Sino-Indian special representatives-level boundary talks were held in New Delhi recently;
- (b) if so, the details of the discussions held and the decisions taken thereon;
- (c) whether the Government has decided to enter into trade with China through the Nathula border;
- (d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard; and
- (e) the time by when a final decision is likely to be taken?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K.NATWAR SINGH)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE ANSWER TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 322 TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.08.2004

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The third meeting of the Special Representatives of the Governments of India and China on the Boundary Question was held in New Delhi on July 26-27, 2004. The meeting between the National Security Advisor, Shri J.N. Dixit and the Vice Foreign Minister, Mr. Dai Bingguo, Special Representatives of India and China respectively, was held in a friendly, constructive and cooperative atmosphere. On July 27, Mr. Dai Bingguo called on the Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister. During the call on the Prime Minister, he handed over a letter from the Chinese Premier, Mr. Wen Jiabao. The two sides agreed to hold the next meeting in Beijing at a mutually convenient date.

(c)-(e) During Prime Minister Vajpayee's visit to China in June 2003, India and China signed a Memorandum on Expanding Border Trade, which adds Nathula as another pass on the India-China border for conducting border trade. The Indian side has agreed to designate Changgu of Sikkim state as the venue for border trade market, while the Chinese side has agreed to designate Renqinggang of the Tibet Autonomous Region as the venue for border trade market. The modalities to put the agreement in place are being worked out by the concerned agencies.