

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:363

ANSWERED ON:20.04.2005

VISIT OF CHINESE PREMIER TO INDIA

Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Singh Shri Sugrib

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Chinese Prime Minister visited India recently;
- (b) if so, the details of discussions held and the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether the Foreign Secretary of India visited China recently;
- (d) if so, the details of the talks held and the bilateral agreements, if any, signed on both these occasions;
- (e) whether border disputes, merits of free trade agreement as well as current stand of China with regard to Arunachal Pradesh came up during the talks;
- (f) if so, the outcome thereof and the benefits likely to accrue to both the countries as a result of these agreements; and
- (g) the steps taken by the Government to strengthen the relations with China?

Answer

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PARTS (a) TO (g) OF THE ANSWER TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 363 TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.04.2005

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Chinese Premier H.E. Mr. Wen Jiabao paid a State visit to India from April 9-12, 2005, during which he held detailed discussions with Prime Minister on wide-ranging bilateral issues and regional and international issues of common interest. Both sides expressed satisfaction over the growing mutual trust and understanding and agreed that India-China bilateral relations have entered a new phase of comprehensive development. During the visit, the two countries established a `Strategic and Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity`, which provides a framework for an all round and comprehensive development of bilateral relations and reflects the global and strategic perspective in which both sides view their relationship with each other. Such a partnership is non-military in character and not directed against any third country. Both sides also reiterated their desire to resolve outstanding differences, including on the boundary question, in a proactive manner without allowing these differences to affect the overall development of the bilateral relations. A number of bilateral agreements were concluded during the visit.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Foreign Secretary visited Beijing from March 30-31, 2005 to hold the fifteenth meeting of the India-China Joint Working Group (JWG) with the Chinese Vice Foreign Minister, during which both sides discussed issues related to the India-China boundary question, including confidence building measures and clarification and confirmation of the line of actual control. During his visit, the Foreign Secretary also held discussions with the Chinese side on preparations for the visit of the Chinese Premier.

During the visit of the Chinese Premier to India, Prime Ministers of both countries signed a Joint Statement, which offers a vision of India-China relations and also an action plan for cooperation in various areas. Eleven other agreements were signed, including the `Agreement on Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of the India-China Boundary Question`. An MOU on major liberalization of civil aviation links and several other agreements on economic and trade matters were also signed. A number of initiatives were agreed upon to step up cultural, S&T and people-to-people links.

(e)&(f) During the visit of the Chinese Premier, both sides exchanged views on the India-China boundary question and reiterated their readiness to seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution, through equal and friendly consultations and proceeding from the overall interests of bilateral relations. They expressed satisfaction over the progress made in the discussions between the Special Representatives of the two countries and welcomed the conclusion of the `Agreement on the Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of the India-China Boundary Question`. Both sides expressed the conviction that an early settlement of the boundary question will advance the basic interests of the two countries and should therefore be pursued as a strategic objective.

The need to seek an early clarification and confirmation of the line of actual control through the mechanism of Joint Working Group was also reiterated. A `Protocol on Modalities for the Implementation of Confidence Building Measures in the Military Field along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas` was also concluded.

The India-China Joint Study Group submitted its report to the two Prime Ministers, in which it recommended an India-China Regional Trading Arrangement. The two Prime Ministers agreed to appoint a Joint Task Force to study in detail the feasibility of, and the benefits that may derive from, the India-China Regional Trading Arrangement and give recommendations regarding its content. Both sides noted that an all-round expansion of India-China bilateral economic cooperation, including trade and investment, constitutes an important dimension of a stronger India-China relationship.

(g) Government is committed to developing relations with China on the basis of the principles of Panchsheel, mutual respect and sensitivity for each other's concerns and aspirations, and equality. The substantive outcome achieved during the visit of the Chinese Premier to India is fully reflective of Government's determination to raise the level and quality of India's relations with China and seek mutually beneficial cooperation over a wide range of areas.