

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1621
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2010
RAIL LINK BETWEEN CHINA AND PAKISTAN
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati;Singh Shri Dhananjay

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether China and Pakistan are planning to build rail and road link through Karakoram ranges in Pakistan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether these projects are likely to go through Gilgit Baltistan which is a part of PoK;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether India has lodged strong protest with China on this project;
- (f) if so, the response of the Chinese Government thereto; and
- (g) the measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA)

(a) to (g) Government has seen reports with regard to China constructing a railway line and upgrading the Karakoram Highway in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK). Government's consistent position is that Pakistan has been in illegal occupation of parts of the Indian State of Jammu & Kashmir since 1947. Government has conveyed to the Chinese side its concerns about their activities in POK, and asked them to cease such activities. China regards Kashmir as a bilateral matter to be settled between India and Pakistan. Government keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's national interest and takes all necessary measures to safeguard it.