

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2369

ANSWERED ON:09.08.2010

EXPEDITION TO SIACHEN

Bhujbal Shri Sameer ;Rane Dr. Nilesh Narayan;Sugavanam Shri E.G.

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a civilian track to Siachen;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Pakistan has lodged protest against the Civilian Mountaineering and Trekking Expedition to Siachen Glacier to be held in October-November this year; and

(d) if so, the ground for Pakistan's protest and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE(SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) & (b): No, Madam. However, an annual civilian high altitude trekking expedition in Siachen has been organized by the Army Adventure Wing since 2007.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) Pakistan has claimed that the trekking expedition is prejudicial to the legal status of the disputed area. India has conveyed to Pakistan that the area of trekking expedition falls within the State of Jammu and Kashmir, which is an integral part of India.