

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:453

ANSWERED ON:10.11.2010

CHINESE OPERATIONS IN POK

Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram;Bais Shri Ramesh;Bapurao Shri Khatgaonkar Patil Bhaskarrao;Choudhary Shri Bhudeo;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Singh Smt. Meena;Tewari Shri Manish;Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large contingent of Peoples Liberation Army (PLA) troops are permanently stationed in Gilgit and Baltistan area of divided J&K illegally occupied by Pakistan;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has taken up the matter with both China and Pakistan for a confirmation or denial of this fact;
- (c) if so, the reaction of these countries in this regard and the reaction of the Union Government thereto;
- (d) whether the Government has taken up the matter of denial of visa by China to the Senior Defence/Security Officials including Northern Army Commander;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Chinese Government thereto;
- (f) whether China continues to issue stapled visa to people of J&K and Arunachal Pradesh;
- (g) if so, the reasons therefor and the number of stapled visa issued by China during the last three years;and
- (h) the concrete steps taken by the Government to check the recurrence of such incidents?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) Government has seen media reports regarding presence of Chinese troops in Gilgit-Baltistan area. Both the Chinese and the Pakistan sides have denied these media reports. Government remains vigilant to all developments having a bearing on India's national interest and takes all necessary measures to safeguard it.

(d) to (h) The Chinese side expressed their inability to accept the visit of GoC-in-C Northern Command to China as "he commands a sensitive area and people from that region comes with a special type of visa". Government has taken up this matter with the Chinese side and has clearly conveyed that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and that there should be no discrimination against visa applicants of Indian nationality on grounds of domicile and ethnicity. Visas issued on a separate sheet of paper stapled to passports are not considered valid for travel out of the country. Government does not maintain state-wise data of passengers who have visited China.