

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1470
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2013
BHUTAN CHINA GETTING CLOSER
Bhagora Shri Tarachand

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Bhutan is getting closer to China;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR)

(a) & (b) Bhutan does not have formal diplomatic relations with China. We have seen reports of occasional meetings between Bhutanese and Chinese functionaries, including in multilateral fora attended by many countries, including China and Bhutan.

(c) India-Bhutan relations, which are indeed exemplary, have been carefully nurtured and fostered over many decades. India is a privileged partner of Bhutan and its people in their socio-economic progress and development. Our bilateral ties are anchored in a strong foundation of trust, mutual confidence and understanding. Government of India's commitment to Bhutan in preserving these unique and special traditional ties is undiminished. India is, and will remain, sensitive to Bhutan and its interests. In the years ahead, our endeavour would be to strengthen our exchanges and multi-faceted ties even further.