

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:672

ANSWERED ON:07.08.2013

CHINA IN POK

Dhanaplan Shri K. P.;Pandurang Shri Munde Gopinathrao

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether China and Pakistan have entered into an agreement for creation of an economic corridor through Pak Occupied Kashmir (POK) and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether China is developing basic infrastructure for its projects in POK;
- (c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to shield India from the effects of such developments?

Answer

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

(a) During the Chinese Premier's visit to Pakistan in May 2013, the two sides agreed to jointly develop the Long-Term Plan for China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. During the Pakistan Prime Minister's visit to China in July 2013, the two sides agreed to set up a Joint Cooperation Committee on the Long-Term Plan for China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. Roads and other forms of connectivity envisaged in this Economic Corridor would pass through Pakistan Occupied Kashmir.

(b) to (d) Government is aware that China is executing infrastructure projects in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir. Government has raised this issue with the Chinese side and has clearly conveyed India's consistent position that Pakistan has been in illegal occupation of parts of the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir since 1947. China regards Kashmir as a bilateral matter to be settled between India and Pakistan. Government has conveyed its concerns to China about their activities in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir, and asked them to cease such activities. Government keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's security and takes all necessary measures to safeguard it.