

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:682

ANSWERED ON:07.08.2013

RELATIONS WITH BHUTAN

Bhagora Shri Tarachand;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the bilateral relations with Bhutan after the recent elections in that country;
- (b) whether any formal or informal talk has been held between the two countries;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the issue of subsidy on petroleum products is proposed to be taken up with Bhutan;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for cordial and friendly relations with the neighbouring country?

Answer

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

(a) India has supported the steady steps that Bhutan has taken to further strengthen its democratic processes and institutions. India is committed to preserve its unique and special traditional ties with Bhutan and will continue to do so.

(b) to (f) Following the successful conduct of elections in July 2013, a delegation of the National Council (Upper House) of Bhutan visited India from July 24-August 1, 2013. Government of India is in regular contact with the Bhutanese authorities. High level exchanges, as well as discussions on our plan assistance to Bhutan are being scheduled.

As a committed developmental partner in the socio-economic progress of Bhutan, Government of India is providing subsidy on petroleum products to Bhutan.