

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1833

ANSWERED ON:03.12.2014

STRENGTHENING BILATERAL TIES WITH COUNTRIES

Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao;Singh Shri Ravneet

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Chinese President visited Maldives and Sri Lanka prior to visiting India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any assessment has been made with regard to the impact of such visits to neighbouring countries on the strategic interests of India and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to guard India's security and other interests and strengthening bilateral ties with countries in the region?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) & (b) The President of China Xi Jinping visited Sri Lanka on 16-17 September 2014. During the visit, China and Sri Lanka signed 27 Agreements/MOUs covering bilateral economic cooperation, trade and commerce, power and energy, agriculture, education and culture.

The President of China Xi Jinping visited Maldives on 14-16 September 2014. During the visit, 9 Agreements were signed between China and the Maldives covering a wide range of topics including trade and economic cooperation, marine cooperation, bridge between Male and Hulhumale, health cooperation, protection of Chinese tourists, tourism cooperation etc.

(c) & (d) India is an active development partner of its neighbours and is involved in various development oriented projects in these countries. India's relations with other countries stand on their own footing and are independent of the relations of those countries with third countries. Government keeps a constant watch on all relevant developments having a bearing on India's security interests and, in this regard, undertakes all necessary measures to safeguard it.