

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1293
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.07.2018

EMINENT PERSONS GROUP

1293. KUMARI SUSHMITA DEV:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Eminent Persons Group (EPG) on Nepal-India relations have agreed to update all the bilateral treaties and agreements including the crucial Peace and Friendship Treaty signed in 1950 in line with the present reality of both the countries;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard and the reaction of the Government of India thereon;
- (c) whether the Government of India has since taken any other steps to strengthen its relations including bilateral treaties and agreements with Nepal; and
- (d) if so, the details in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) The Eminent Persons Group for Nepal-India Relations (EPG) is yet to submit its report to the Governments of India and Nepal. As per its Terms of Reference, the EPG has to submit its recommendations to the two Governments at the end of its two year term. The EPG has met nine times since July 2016. The last meeting of the EPG was held in Kathmandu from 29-30 June 2018.

(c) & (d) Regular high-level exchanges and meetings of bilateral mechanisms at official level provide opportunities to regularly review bilateral cooperation across diverse sectors and to advance it further for mutual benefit. The reciprocal visits of Prime Minister of Nepal Mr. K.P. Sharma Oli to India in April 2018 and of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Nepal in May 2018 have further strengthened India-Nepal partnership by expanding bilateral ties in areas of mutual interest.
