



Ministry of External Affairs
Government of India

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QUESTION NO.1931 PARTNERSHIP OF RUSSIA IN BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE

January 04, 2018

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1931
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.01.2018

PARTNERSHIP OF RUSSIA IN BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE

1931. SHRI ANIL DESAI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Russia is a major partner in China's \$ one trillion Belt and Road initiative which India opposes;
- (b) whether Russia is discussing connectivity issues in an open-minded and constructive manner with both India and China;
- (c) whether the cooperation at Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) would help assuage such concerns; and
- (d) if so, Government's response in this regard?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI M. J. AKBAR)

(a) to (d) Government has seen reports of Russia's positive statements with regard to China's 'One Belt and One Road Initiative' (OBOR).

In response to China's 'One Belt One Road' initiative, Government has publically articulated its firm belief that connectivity initiatives must be based on universally recognized international norms, good governance, rule of law, openness, transparency and equality, and must be pursued in a manner that respects sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Based on the above principles, expansion and strengthening of connectivity is an integral part of India's economic and diplomatic initiatives. Government is working with many countries and international institutions in support of physical and digital connectivity in our own immediate and near neighbourhood. India and Russia are founding members of the International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC).

BRICS is an informal grouping of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. The Xiamen Declaration, adopted by the leaders of the five countries during the 9th BRICS Summit held in Xiamen (China) in September 2017, has no reference to OBOR.



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Working hours at Headquarters 9:00 A.M. To 5:30 P.M.