



Ministry of External Affairs
Government of India

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Q NO.502 STEPS TO PROTECT INTERESTS OF INDIA DUE TO UNREST IN NEPAL AND MALDIVES

December 03, 2015

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.502
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.12.2015

STEPS TO PROTECT INTERESTS OF INDIA DUE TO UNREST IN NEPAL AND MALDIVES

†502. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by the Ministry to protect the interests of India in view of the turbulence occurring in our neighbouring countries Nepal and Maldives;
- (b) whether it is a fact that Nepal has made a complaint in UN that India is interfering in the internal matters of Nepal;
- (c) whether the relationship of Nepal and India has turned ugly in last two years; and
- (d) whether situation on Indo-Nepal border is not normal, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) India has always stood for peace, prosperity and progress of Nepal, which is also in India's interest. Throughout the process of Constitution making in Nepal, India has supported a broad-based and inclusive Constitution. India has consistently advised the Government of Nepal that the issues facing Nepal are political in nature, which cannot be resolved through force.

The Ministry is continuously monitoring developments in the Maldives and maintains a regular dialogue at various levels with the Government of Maldives to safeguard India's interests.

(b) In his speech at the Universal Periodic Review of Nepal at the UN Human Rights Council on 4th November 2015 in Geneva, the Head of the Nepalese delegation Deputy PM and Foreign Minister Shri Kamal Thapa spoke about difficulties in flow of supplies to Nepal. In our statement at that forum, the Government of India reiterated that obstruction is on the Nepalese side caused by Nepalese protestors.

(c) No.

(d) Sections of the Nepalese population have been causing obstructions at the India-Nepal border from the Nepalese side, in protest against the new Constitution. There is no hindrance from the Indian side. Government of India has facilitated supplies wherever possible. Several thousand trucks have remained stranded for weeks and have been waiting on the Indian side of the border crossings. The primary crossing of Raxaul-Birgunj, which accounts for two-thirds of our trade, remains closed from their side for more than two months. However, every day several hundred cargo trucks have still been passing through those crossing points that are open and available. Movement of POL and medical supplies have been facilitated, including by re-routing.



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