



Ministry of External Affairs
Government of India

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QUESTION NO.1929 IMPACT OF FTA SIGNED BY MALDIVES WITH CHINA

January 04, 2018

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1929
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.01.2018

IMPACT OF FTA SIGNED BY MALDIVES WITH CHINA

1929. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Maldives rushing to sign up a Free Trade Agreement(FTA) with China recently has taken India by surprise;
- (b) whether the Indian commercial intelligence setup has been caught unawares with Maldives signing its first FTA with any country and China its second FTA with any country after Pakistan; and
- (c) whether India has tried to fathom the motives behind Maldives convening its Parliament for an emergency sitting and passing the FTA resolution with only 30 out of 80 senators present?

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

(a) & (b) According to available information, discussions on the Maldives-China Free Trade Agreement (FTA) was initiated in December 2014 following the visit of the President of China to Maldives. Formal negotiations on the FTA commenced in December 2015 and the text was reportedly finalized in September 2017 after five rounds of negotiations. The FTA was signed on 7 December 2017 in Beijing during the visit of the President of Maldives to China.

(c) India continues to monitor developments in Maldives, which has a bearing on bilateral relations.



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