

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2347
ANSWERED ON-31.07.2014

Boosting of bilateral ties with China

2347 Smt. Sasikala Pushpa Ramaswamy

- (a) whether Government has taken any steps to boost bilateral ties with China, the details thereof; and
(b) whether any discussion were held with them recently, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) India-China relations have witnessed all round progress in recent years. During former Prime Minister Shri A.B. Vajpayee's visit to China from June 22-27, 2003, the two countries agreed to qualitatively enhance bilateral relations in all areas. It was agreed to appoint Special Representatives to seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution to the outstanding Boundary Question.

A 'Strategic and Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity' was established in April 2005. In November 2006, the two countries agreed on a 10-pronged strategy for comprehensive development of this partnership. China is emerging as India's largest trading partner in the current fiscal year. The two countries have established a Strategic Economic Dialogue mechanism. The two sides have signed MoUs to enhance cooperation in areas such as finance, agriculture, water resources, energy, environment, education, tourism and IT. The two sides also undertake frequent consultations on global and regional issues of mutual interest.

(b) Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met Chinese President Xi Jinping on 14 July 2014 in Fortaleza, Brazil on the sidelines of the 6th BRICS Summit. The meeting, the first between the two leaders, lasted approximately 80 minutes. The discussion centered on all aspects of the bilateral agenda as well as on regional and global issues.

At the invitation of the Vice President of China, the Hon'ble Vice President of India Shri M. Hamid Ansari, paid an official visit to China from June 26 to 30, 2014. The Vice President held bilateral discussions at Beijing on June 30, 2014 with his counterpart, Vice President Li Yuanchao of China and called on President Xi Jinping. MoU on Cooperation on Industrial Parks in India, MoU concerning communication and cooperation of training in the area of Capacity Building of Public Officials and the Implementation Plan for Provision of Hydrological Information of the Yarlung Zangbu/ Brahmaputra River in Flood Season by China to India were signed during the visit. The Encyclopaedia of India-China Cultural Contacts was also released in the presence of two Vice Presidents. Vice President Ansari also attended events to mark the 60th anniversary of Panchsheel at Beijing on June 28, 2014.

The Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi visited India on June 8-9, 2014 as the Special Envoy of the President of China. The External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj held extensive discussions with him. The discussions were comprehensive and substantive and various issues of significance were raised and discussed in a frank and candid manner.
