

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO-70
ANSWERED ON-08.02.2018**

Infrastructure building in Doklam by China

70 . Shri Neeraj Shekhar

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether China has occupied major portion of Doklam and is engaged in building infrastructure there;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto;
- (c) whether Government has taken up the matter at diplomatic level; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the response of Chinese authorities thereto?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 70 REGARDING "INFRASTRUCUTURE BUILDING IN DOKLAM BY CHINA" FOR ANSWER ON 08.02.2018

The face-off between the Indian and Chinese border personnel in Doklam area of Bhutan started when a large construction party of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China entered the area on 16 June 2017 and tried to alter the status quo by building a road in the area in violation of its existing understandings both with Bhutan and India. Both Bhutan and India approached China, as per the existing protocols and understandings, to stop Chinese actions aimed at changing the status quo. Only after these attempts failed that the Indian border personnel, in close consultation and coordination with Bhutan, intervened to stop the road construction.

India consistently maintained that it was only through diplomatic channels that differences on such matters could be addressed. On the basis of persistent diplomatic communications, the disengagement of Indian and Chinese border personnel in the Doklam area was accomplished on 28 August 2017. This also addressed India's concerns about China's road construction activity and its unilateral action aimed at changing the status quo in the area.

Since the disengagement of Indian and Chinese border personnel in the Doklam area on 28 August 2017, there have been no new developments at the face-off site and its vicinity. The status quo prevails in this area.

This issue was also raised during my meeting with the Chinese Foreign Minister during his visit to India in December 2017, wherein we expressed satisfaction that it was resolved through concerted diplomatic communications, reflecting the political maturity on both sides. I reiterated that the maintenance of peace and tranquility in the border areas is an essential pre-requisite for the smooth development of bilateral relations.

India-China boundary in the Sikkim Sector is yet to be finalized. It is part of the mandate of the Special

Representatives of India and China on Boundary Question, who are engaged in discussions to explore the framework for a boundary settlement from the political perspective of the overall bilateral relationship, to find a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question, including the Sikkim Sector.

Government remains engaged with the Chinese side through established mechanisms including border personnel meetings, flag meetings, meetings of Working Mechanism for Consultation & Coordination on India-China Border Affairs, as well as through diplomatic channels for the maintenance of peace and tranquility in the India-China border areas.

India and China agree that progress in bilateral relations should be guided by the consensus reached between their leaders that at a time of global uncertainty, India-China relations are a factor of stability and India and China, in their relationship, must not allow differences to become disputes.

Government keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's security and takes all necessary measures to safeguard it.