GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1374 TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.09.2020

NEPAL-CHINA TRANSPORTATION TREATIES

1374. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that Nepal has signed a number of transit and transportation treaties with China in the past few years to shrug off its dependence on India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the likely impact of these various agreements on the relationship of India with Nepal?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN]

(a) to (c) According to an official Press Release of the Government of Nepal, a Protocol to the agreement on Transit Transport was signed between the Government of Nepal and the Government of the People's Republic of China during the visit of President of Nepal to China in April 2019.

India's age—old ties with Nepal are unique and special, based on shared history, geography, culture, close people—to—people ties, mutual security and close economic linkages. Two—thirds of Nepal's global trade is with India and over 90% of Nepal's third country import—export transit through India. India's ties with Nepal stand on their own merit, and are independent of Nepal's relations with third countries.

India is committed to further strengthening and expanding India—Nepal cooperation across diverse areas including trade-economic and investment cooperation, developmental assistance, connectivity, culture and people-to-people level ties.