

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 26.11.2009
ANSWERED ON
VISIT OF NEPALESE FOREIGN MINISTER .

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Shri V. Hanumantha Rao

Will the Minister of COALCOALEXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether border management, encroachments and political mechanism to promote trust and understanding among parties in Nepal has come up for high level discussions during visit of Nepal Foreign Minister to India;
- (b) whether two countries have also sought to talks on reviewing India-Nepal friendship treaty and explore ways to bring about early conclusion to joint hydel projects including Pancheswar, Sapta Kosi and Naumure;
- (c) if so, outcome of the discussions held;
- (d) whether any agreement was reached; and
- (e) if so, details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(DR. SHASHI THAROOR)

(a) to (e) Yes. The Nepalese Foreign Minister Ms. Sujata Koirala visited India from August 10-14, 2009, during which issues of mutual interest, including border management, encroachments and hydel power were discussed. Both sides agreed to resolve border related issues through existing bilateral mechanisms and not allow the open border to be misused. Nepal assured that it will not allow its territory to be used against India. India expressed full support for the successful completion of the peace process and for Nepal's efforts for its economic development. The visit was a preparatory one preceding the visit of the Prime Minister of Nepal, Mr. Madhav Kumar Nepal, to India from August 18-22, 2009. During Prime Minister of Nepal's visit, the Foreign Secretaries of India and Nepal signed an MoU regarding continuation of Indian grant assistance for the Goitre control programme in Nepal. A Joint Press Statement was also issued during the visit.