

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 18.11.2010
ANSWERED ON

RENEWING OF TREATIES WITH NEPAL AND BHUTAN .

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Shri Narendra Kumar Kashyap

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

- (a) whether Government is contemplating to renew the treaties with Bhutan and Nepal;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the salient features of the proposed treaties and the previous treaties; and
- (d) the details of the agenda undertaken for mutual cooperation with these countries?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SMT. PRENEET KAUR)

(a) to (c) During the visit of the Prime Minister of Nepal in September 2008, both sides while noting that the multi-faceted and deep rooted relationship between the two countries needed further consolidation and expansion in a forward looking manner to better reflect the current realities, agreed to review, adjust and update the 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship, while giving due recognition to the special features of the bilateral relationship. In August 2009, during the visit of the Prime Minister of Nepal, the Prime Ministers of India and Nepal directed their Foreign Secretaries to discuss the review of the 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship with a view to further strengthening the bilateral relationship. Among other things, the 1950 Treaty provides that both countries will extend national treatment to the other's nationals. There is no proposal for renewing India-Bhutan Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation, which was updated and signed in 2007. India and Nepal signed an Extradition Treaty on 2 October, 1953, which remains in force. With a view to strengthen the institutional legal arrangements for effectively combating crime and terrorism in tune with contemporary realities, India and Nepal initialled an updated Extradition Treaty in January 2005. It is awaiting confirmation of the Government of Nepal for formal signatures.

(d) Our cooperation with Nepal and Bhutan encompasses a broad canvas and includes economic and commercial linkages, infrastructure, hydropower, human resource development, health, assistance for grass-root level development projects, culture and people-to-people exchanges.