

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1838**  
ANSWERED ON- 16/03/2023

**INCLINATION OF SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRIES TOWARDS CHINA**

1838. # SHRI SANJAY SINGH

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that South Asian countries, like, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and Maldives are showing inclination towards China to get funds for large scale infrastructure projects;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of projects funded by China in neighbouring South Asian countries of India, since 2018 till date; and
- (d) whether any steps have been taken by Government to counter this Chinese strategy of cornering India?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI. V. MURALEEDHARAN)

(a to d) Government is aware that China is engaging in funding of infrastructure projects in countries in South Asia, including in ports, highways, railways and airports. Under its 'Neighbourhood First' policy, Government is committed to developing friendly and mutually beneficial relations with all its neighbours. India is an active economic partner of its neighbours and is involved in a large number of development projects in these countries. India also has extensive ties with its neighbours in diverse fields including defence and security cooperation, trade and investment, education, culture and people-to-people exchanges.

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

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