

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED FAQ NO. 2958
ANSWERED ON 13.08.2026**

IMPLEMENTATION OF INDO-BHUTAN FRIENDSHIP TREATY

2958. SHRI PRAMOD BORO

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

(a) whether Government has reviewed the ongoing implementation of the Indo-Bhutan Friendship Treaty (2007) to address emerging trans-border ecological threats, specifically up-stream deforestation, landslides and siltation affecting the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) and adjoining plains of Assam; and

(b) whether the mandate of existing bilateral bodies, including the Joint Group of Experts (JGE) and Joint Technical Team (JTT) is being expanded under diplomatic channels to include collaborative mountain-ecosystem management in the tributaries flowing through BTR region of Assam?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) & (b) The India-Bhutan Friendship Treaty of 2007 provides an overarching framework for peace, friendship and close cooperation between the two countries. Specific subject matters are dealt through relevant bilateral mechanisms.

The matters pertaining to trans-boundary rivers between India and Bhutan are addressed through a set of inter-governmental institutional mechanisms comprising Joint Experts Team (JET); Joint Group of Experts (JGE); and Joint Technical Team (JTT). These mechanisms meet regularly. Representatives of relevant Ministries, Department(s), and Agencies of the Government of India, as well as representatives of bordering Indian States participate in these meetings. Restructuring and review of mandate of these mechanisms is presently under discussion between the two Governments.

There is also an India-Bhutan Joint Working Group (JWG) on Environment, to advance bilateral cooperation on environment and climate related issues. The JWG last met in April 2026 in New Delhi.
