

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1512
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.12.2017**

ROAD PROJECT BY CHINA

†1512. DR. KRISHAN PRATAP:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the highways being constructed by China in Nepal upto Indian border;**
- (b) whether China is making its presence felt by constructing 800 km long roads to connect Karakoram pass to Gwadar port as well as through several other projects in Pak occupied Kashmir and if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether this is a strategic, political and diplomatic move of China and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government to counter the rising influence of China in the border States?**

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]**

(a) to (c) Under its 'Belt and Road Initiative', China is undertaking projects for development of infrastructure facilities in several countries in the region.

While Nepal and China have reportedly signed a Memorandum of Understanding in the context of China's 'Belt and Road Initiative' in May 2017 to undertake infrastructure projects in Nepal, no specific proposal regarding construction of such highways by China upto Indian border through Nepal has come to Government's attention.

With regard to Pakistan, Government is aware that China is executing infrastructure projects in Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK). China is assisting Pakistan in the development of the so-called 'China-Pakistan Economic Corridor' (CPEC). Some of the proposed projects under CPEC are in PoK.

Government's consistent position is that Pakistan has been in illegal occupation of parts of the Indian state of Jammu & Kashmir since 1947. Government has conveyed to the Chinese side, including at the highest level, its concerns about their activities in PoK and asked them to cease these activities.

(d) 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 various development projects in these countries. India also has extensive ties with neighbouring countries in education, culture, trade and investments as well as defence and security cooperation. India's relations with other countries stand on their own footing and are independent of the relations of those countries with third countries.

Government also gives careful and specific attention to the improvement of infrastructure for the development of border areas in order to facilitate the economic development of these areas as also to meet India's strategic and security requirements.

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