

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2024**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.03.2018

**BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH NEPAL**

2024. SHRI KAMAL NATH:  
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Minister of External Affairs had recently paid a visit to Nepal and held discussions with various leaders there;
- (b) if so, the details of talks held with various leaders there;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any concrete steps to strengthen its bilateral relations with Nepal; and
- (d) if so, the cooperation extended by the Government of India to Nepal in attaining economic growth and development?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b) Minister of External Affairs of India Smt. Sushma Swaraj paid an official visit to Nepal from 1-2 February 2018. During the visit, she called on President of Nepal Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari and (then) Prime Minister of Nepal Mr. Sher Bahadur Deuba. She also had meetings with leader of the Communist Party of Nepal (UML) Mr. K.P. Sharma Oli; Chairman of the Communist Party of Nepal (MC) Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'; leaders of Rastriya Janata Party-Nepal Mr. Mahant Thakur, Mr. Rajendra Mahato, Mr. Raj Kishore Yadav, Mr. Sharat Singh Bhandari, Mr. Mahendra Yadav, Mr. Anil Jha; and Chairman of Sanghiya Samajbadi Forum-Nepal Mr. Upendra Yadav. EAM congratulated the political leaders and people of Nepal for the successful conduct of three-tier elections in Nepal. Discussions focused on ways to advance the special ties of friendship and cooperation between India and Nepal.

(c) & (d) The Government continues to take all necessary measures to advance its age-old, unique, multifaceted ties with Nepal. The Government has expanded its partnership with Nepal through, *inter-alia*, expediting implementation of connectivity and economic projects such as development of cross-border power transmission lines, construction of cross-border rail links, construction of roads in the Terai region, development of Integrated Check Posts at the India-Nepal border, hydro-power projects, and initiatives to enhance people to people contacts and capacity building. Further, under the concessional Lines-of-Credit of over US\$ 1.65 billion extended to the Government of Nepal, a number of infrastructure projects are under implementation in Nepal. Besides the

regular meetings of India-Nepal Joint Commission at the level of Foreign Minister, which comprehensively reviews bilateral relations, a number of institutional mechanisms are in place between India and Nepal in the areas of defence & security, trade & commerce, power, water resources, connectivity and development cooperation to advance mutually beneficial cooperation. The Government is committed to advancing its cooperative ties across diverse sectors with Nepal, as per the priorities of the Government of Nepal, for the benefit of the two peoples.

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