

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.911
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.02.2017

OPENING OF NATHU LA ROUTE

911. DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken up the issue of opening of the closed Nathu La route after Doklam standoff for Indian pilgrims;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether China recently referred the 1890 UK-China treaty on the demarcation of Indo-China border in Sikkim sector to follow and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government will rebut to Chinese side and place India's claim on the issue; and
- (e) if so, the details of Government's view point in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) The Kailash Mansarovar Yatra via the Nathu La route was not undertaken in 2017 after the Chinese government cited unfavourable conditions to ensure the safe and smooth conduct of the Yatra on this route. This matter was raised by the Government with the Chinese government, including during the meeting of the External Affairs Minister with the Chinese Foreign Minister in December 2017. Subsequently, the Chinese government has confirmed resumption of Yatra on this route.

(c) to (e) India-China boundary in the Sikkim Sector is yet to be finalized. It is part of the mandate of the Special Representatives of India and China on Boundary Question, who are engaged in discussions, to find a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question, including the Sikkim Sector.
