

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.606
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.02.2020**

BRI AND CPEC

606. SHRI MOHAMMED FAIZAL P.P.:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to mobilize international support to oppose the China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and particularly China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken steps to make international community realise that the project is not a mutually beneficial project to Pakistan and China but only benefits China;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN]**

(a) to (e) Government's position on China's 'One Belt One Road' (OBOR) or 'Belt and Road Initiative' (BRI) has been clear and consistent.

Government's concerns arise in part from the fact that the inclusion of the so-called illegal 'China-Pakistan Economic Corridor' (CPEC) as a flagship project of 'OBOR/BRI', directly impinges on the issue of sovereignty and territorial integrity of India. This so-called illegal 'China-Pakistan Economic Corridor' (CPEC) passes through parts of the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh which are under illegal occupation of Pakistan. Government has conveyed its concerns to the Chinese side about their activities in areas illegally occupied by Pakistan in the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and has asked them to cease such activities.

Further, the Government is of the firm belief that connectivity initiatives must be based on universally recognized international norms. They must follow principles of openness, transparency and financial responsibility and must be pursued in a manner that respects sovereignty, equality and territorial integrity of other nations.

Government's consistent position in this regard has also been endorsed by other countries. The India-USA Joint Statement 'Prosperity through Partnership' released in June 2017 called upon all nations to support bolstering regional economic connectivity through transparent development of infrastructure and the use of responsible debt financing practices, while ensuring respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, the rule of law and the environment.

The India-Japan 'Prosperity through Partnership' released in September 2017 also underlined the importance of all countries ensuring the development and use of connectivity infrastructure in an open, transparent and non-exclusive manner based on international standards and responsible debt financing

practices, while ensuring respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, the rule of law, and the environment.

The European Commission issued a Joint Communication in September 2018 titled 'Connecting Europe and Asia – Building blocks for an EU Strategy' in which it has been highlighted that the European Union promotes an approach to connectivity, which is sustainable, comprehensive and rules-based. Connectivity has to be economically, fiscally, environmentally and socially sustainable in the long term.
