

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 983

ANSWERED ON - 25/07/2025

CREATION OF NEW BLOCK IN PLACE OF SAARC

983. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be please to state:

- (a) the reasons for SAARC Summit not being held since, 2014;**
- (b) whether China and Pakistan are planning to create a new block in place of SAARC to advance connectivity, trade and political dialogue, if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether China-Pakistan-Bangladesh Trilateral meeting at Kunming discussed above issue at length, if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) the stand of India on the proposed block; and**
- (e) whether any timelines have been fixed to create a new block, if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) The efforts to continue the SAARC dialogue, including holding of important meetings are hindered due to Pakistan sponsoring cross border terrorism and blocking trade and transport connectivity efforts in the region. As a result, the 19th SAARC Summit scheduled to be held in Pakistan in November 2016 was postponed. There has been no material change in the situation since then, and hence still no consensus among Member States on the holding of the Summit.

(b) to (e) We have seen reports of the China-Pakistan-Bangladesh Trilateral meeting at Kunming. Following the meeting, the Foreign Affairs Adviser of Bangladesh conveyed, during a media briefing in Dhaka, that the trilateral meeting was not meant to build an alliance targeting any third country. The Government of India maintains a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's national interests and takes all necessary measures to safeguard them.
