



RTI matter/ Time Bound

Government of India
Ministry of External Affairs
New Delhi

No. E/551/1/2021-RTI

20 December 2021

To,

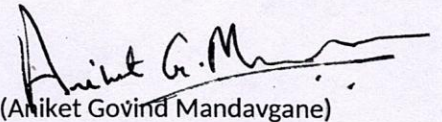
Subject: Information sought under Right to Information Act, 2005

Sir,

Please refer to your RTI application bearing Registration No. MOEAF/R/P/21/00436 addressed to RTI cell, Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi received by this Division on 03 December 2021.

2. Only point no. 1 of your query pertains to the undersigned CPIO. This Ministry has already answered a Parliamentary Question on this issue, which is available in public domain. A copy of the same is enclosed for your information.
3. If you are aggrieved with this reply, you may file an appeal to Shri Satish K. Sivan, Director (East Asia) & Appellate Authority, Ministry of External Affairs, South Block, New Delhi -110001, within a month from the date of receipt of this letter.

Yours faithfully,


(Aniket Govind Mandavgane)
DS (China) & CPIO
Room no. 270 A, South Block,
New Delhi - 110001
Telefax: 23011356
Email: dschina2@mea.gov.in

dc

Issued. 20/12/2021

CC to:

1. Shri Bhupendra Singh Nikhurpa, Under Secretary (RTI), MEA, New Delhi

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QUESTION NO.664 INDIAN LAND IN POSSESSION OF CHINA

June 27, 2019

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.664
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.06.2019

INDIAN LAND IN POSSESSION OF CHINA

664. SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has so far failed to regain 38 thousands sq. km. area of its land in the border areas of India from the possession of China despite years of discussions and meetings held;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the details of the efforts made during the last three years to resolve the issue of occupation of Indian territory by China?

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

(a) to (c) China disputes the international boundary between India and China. Indian territory under the occupation of China in Jammu & Kashmir is approximately 38,000 sq. kms. In addition, under the so-called China-Pakistan "Boundary Agreement" signed between China and Pakistan on 2 March 1963, Pakistan illegally ceded 5,180 sq. kms. of Indian territory in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir to China.

India and China have each appointed a Special Representative (SR) to explore the framework for a boundary settlement from the political perspective of the overall bilateral relationship. There have been twenty one meetings of SRs so far with the last three meetings being the 19th meeting held in Beijing on 20-21 April 2016, 20th meeting held in New Delhi on 22 December 2017, and the 21st meeting held in Chengdu on 24 November 2018. The two sides have agreed to seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution to the boundary question through dialogue and negotiations.

Comments

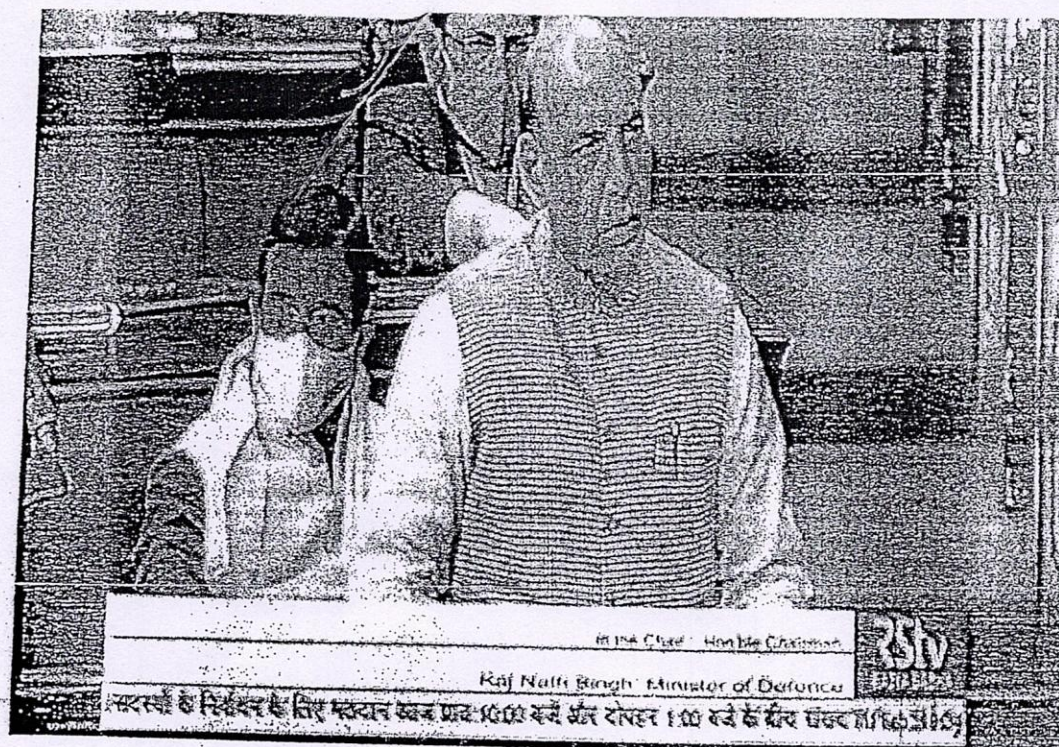


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Visitors: 176936152, Page last updated on: 27/6/2019

Working hours at Headquarters 9:00 A.M. To 5:30 P.M.



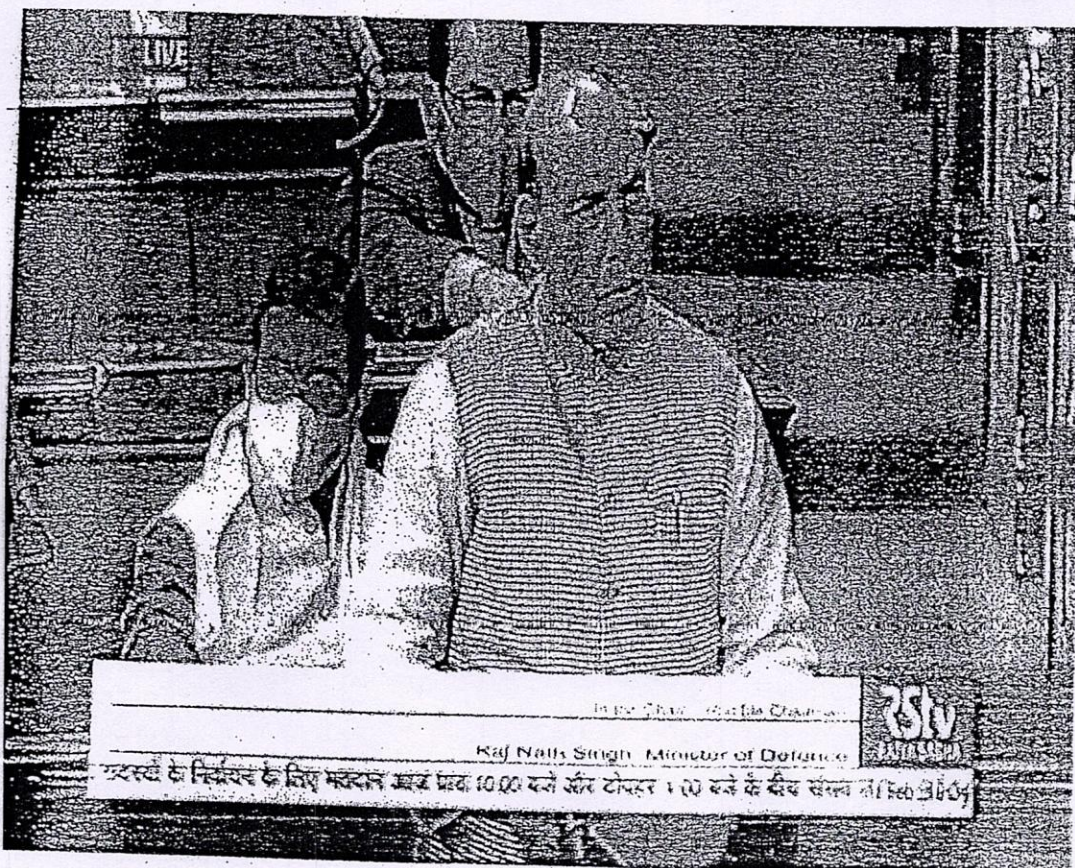
Raksha Mantri Confers with Combined Commanders

RM Shri Rajnath Singh gets his first dose of the COVID vaccine

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurates DRDO Skill Development Centre for Fire Safety Training

Union Budget 2021-22 is a healthy mix of promise, potential, and progress: Raksha Mantri

देश के किसानों में पैदा हो रहा है एक नया आत्मविश्वास: श्री राजनाथ सिंह



Hon'ble Chairman,

The House would recall that I had made a detailed statement on the developments in the India-China border areas in Eastern Ladakh during the last session in September last year. I had highlighted that the Chinese side had since April/May 2020 amassed large number of troops and armaments in the border areas adjacent to Eastern Ladakh. It had also made several attempts to transgress the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in various parts. These actions of the Chinese side had been detected and appropriately responded to by our armed forces. The House and the Nation had also paid homage to the brave Indian soldiers who had made the supreme sacrifice and laid down their lives in the cause of defending the territorial integrity of India. I would today like to apprise the House of certain important developments since then.

Since last September, both sides have maintained communication with each other through military and diplomatic channels. Our objective was to effect disengagement and maintain status quo along the LAC so as to restore peace and tranquility.

Let me briefly recapitulate the main aspects of the situation on the ground. As the House is aware, China illegally occupied approximately 38,000 sq. kms in the Union Territory of Ladakh, mainly during the 1962 conflict. In addition, under the so-called Sino-Pakistan 'Boundary Agreement' of 1963, Pakistan illegally ceded 5,180 sq. kms. of Indian territory in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir to China. China, thus is in illegal occupation of more than 43,000 sq. kms of Indian territory. It also claims approximately 90,000 sq. kms. of Indian territory in the Eastern Sector of the India-China boundary in Arunachal Pradesh. India has never accepted this illegal occupation of our territory or the unjustified claims.

I would like to add here that India has consistently maintained that while bilateral relations can develop in parallel with discussions on resolving the boundary question, any serious disturbance in peace and tranquility along the LAC in the border areas is bound to have adverse implications for the direction of our bilateral ties. The Chinese side is well aware of our position. In fact, various high level Joint Statements have acknowledged this point that maintenance of peace and tranquility along the LAC in the border areas is a fundamental premise for development of relations.

The actions by the Chinese side since last year have seriously disturbed peace and tranquility. Consequently they have also had an impact on the overall relationship. In our various high level interactions with the Chinese side, including in my own meeting with Chinese Defence Minister last September, my colleague the External Affairs Minister Shri Jaishankarji's meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister and NSA Shri Doval's conversation with his Chinese counterpart, we have made it clear that the foremost need was to ensure disengagement in all the friction points along the LAC in the Western Sector so as to help restore peace and tranquility.

Hon'ble Chairman,

I had apprised the House last year that there were several friction areas in Eastern Ladakh along the LAC. In addition, the Chinese side had mobilized a large number of troops and armaments along the LAC as well as in the depth areas. Our armed forces too had made adequate and effective counter deployments in these areas to ensure that India's security interests were fully protected.

I am proud to say that our Armed Forces have responded to the challenges posed by the unilateral Chinese action and have shown valour and courage on both South and North bank of Pangong Tso. Many strategically important points were identified and our troops positioned themselves at those Hill Tops and at locations which were very important from our point of view. It is because of this great bravery of our Armed Forces in the face of harsh adverse climatic conditions that we maintained the edge. Our Armed Forces proved yet again that territorial integrity of our country remains safe in their hands and their grit and determination to safeguard our borders is unwavering.

Over the last year, we have maintained diplomatic and military engagement with the Chinese side. In these discussions, we have maintained the three key principles that determine our approach: (i) both sides should strictly respect and observe the LAC; (ii) neither side should attempt to alter the status quo unilaterally; and (iii) all agreements and understandings between the two sides must be fully abided by in their entirety. To ensure disengagement in friction points along the LAC, it was our view that troops of both sides, who are now in close proximity, should vacate the forward deployments made in 2020 and return to the permanent and accepted bases.

Hon'ble Chairman,

Our approach and strategy for negotiations with the Chinese side has been guided at the highest level by the Hon'ble Prime Minister's resolve that we will not give even an inch of Indian territory. Our tenacity and approach during talks have yielded results.

Since September 2020, based on the policy guidance, military and diplomatic officials of both sides have met several times to work out a mutually acceptable solution for disengagement. Till date, there have been 9 rounds of meetings of the Senior Commanders of both sides. Diplomatic talks have continued in parallel under the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC).

Hon'ble Chairman,

I am happy to inform the House today that as a result of our well thought out approach and sustained talks with the Chinese side, we have now been able to reach an agreement on disengagement in the North and South Bank of the Pangong Lake. It has also been agreed to convene the next meeting of the Senior Commanders within 48 hours after the complete disengagement in the Pangong Lake area so as to address and resolve all other remaining issues.

The agreement that we have been able to reach with the Chinese side for disengagement in the Pangong Lake area envisages that both sides will cease their forward deployments in a phased, coordinated and verified manner. The Chinese side will keep its troop presence in the North Bank area to east of Finger 8. Reciprocally, the Indian troops will be based at their permanent base at Dhan Singh Thapa Post near Finger 3. A similar action would be taken in the South Bank area by both sides. These are mutual and reciprocal steps and any structures that had been built by both sides since April 2020 in both North and South Bank area will be removed and the landforms will be restored. It has also been agreed to have a temporary moratorium on military activities by both sides in the North Bank, including patrolling to the traditional areas. Patrolling will be resumed only when both sides reach an agreement in diplomatic and military talks that would be held subsequently. The implementation of this agreement has started yesterday in the North and South Bank of the Pangong Lake. It will substantially restore the situation to that existing prior to commencement of the standoff last year.

13. I want to assure this House that in these talks we have not conceded anything. The House should also know that there are still some outstanding issues with regard to deployment and patrolling at some other points along the LAC in Eastern Ladakh. These will be the focus of further discussions with the Chinese side. We have agreed that both sides should achieve complete disengagement at the earliest and abide fully by the bilateral agreements and protocols. By now, the Chinese side is also fully aware of our resolve. It is therefore our expectation that the Chinese side will work with us in full sincerity to resolve these remaining issues.

Hon'ble Chairman,

I would like this House to join me in paying gratitude to our armed forces who have shown grit and resolve under these extremely harsh climatic conditions of Ladakh which has resulted in the present agreement. Our Nation will always remember the sacrifices made by our brave soldiers which has been the foundation of this disengagement at Pangong Tso Lake.

Hon'ble Chairman,

I am confident that this entire House, irrespective of political affiliations, is united together for upholding our sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity and national security. And further, this House is one in sending out the same message demonstrating the strength and unity of our Nation to the entire world.

Jai Hind.

THANKS

NAZ

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Text of Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh's Statement in Lok Sabha on September 15 Regarding Situation on Eastern Border in Ladakh

September 15, 2020

"Hon'ble Speaker,

1. I rise today to brief this august House about the development on our eastern borders in Ladakh. You are aware that our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji had visited Ladakh and met our brave soldiers to convey the message of solidarity of the Nation behind their every action. I too have spent some time with our soldiers in Ladakh and I want to tell you that I have felt their indomitable courage, gallant and valor. As you are aware that Col Santosh Babu, along with his 19 brave soldiers, made the supreme sacrifice in the cause of defending the territorial integrity of India. Hon'ble Speaker, this House has paid homage to them by observing two minutes silence yesterday.

2. I would like to take some time first to briefly provide some details of our boundary issue with China. As the House is aware, India and China are yet to resolve their boundary question. China does not accept the customary and traditional alignment of the boundary between India and China. We believe that this alignment is based on well-established geographical principles confirmed by treaties and agreements, as well as historical usage and practice, well-known for centuries to both sides. The Chinese position, however, is that the boundary between the two countries has not been formally delimited, that there exists a traditional customary line formed by the extent of jurisdiction that they claim was exercised historically by each side, and that the two sides have different interpretations of the position of the traditional customary line. The two countries had engaged in discussions during 1950s-60s but these efforts could not yield a mutually acceptable solution.

3. As the House is aware, China continues to be in illegal occupation of approximately 38,000 sq. kms in the Union Territory of Ladakh. In addition, under the so-called Sino-Pakistan 'Boundary Agreement' of 1963, Pakistan illegally ceded 5,180 sq. km. of Indian territory in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir to China. China also claims approximately 90,000 sq. kms. of Indian territory in the Eastern Sector of the India-China boundary in Arunachal Pradesh.

4. Both India and China have formally agreed that the boundary question is a complex issue which requires patience and have committed to seeking a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution through dialogue and peaceful negotiations. In the interim, the two sides also agree that maintenance of peace and tranquility in the border areas is an essential basis for the further development of bilateral relations.

5. I would like to mention here that as yet there is no commonly delineated Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the border areas between India and China and there is no common perception of the entire LAC. Therefore, in order to ensure peace and tranquility in the border areas, especially along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the two countries have concluded a number of agreements and protocols.

6. Under these agreements, the two sides have agreed to maintain peace and tranquility along the LAC without prejudice to their respective positions on the alignment of the LAC as well as on the boundary question. It is on this basis, that our overall relations also saw considerable progress since 1988. India's position is that while bilateral relations can continue to develop in parallel with discussions on resolving the boundary question, any serious disturbance in peace and tranquility along the LAC in the border areas is bound to have implications for the positive direction of our ties.

7. A key element of both the 1993 and the 1996 Agreements is that the two sides will keep their military forces in the areas along the Line of Actual Control to a minimum level. These agreements also mandate that pending an ultimate solution to the boundary question, the two sides shall strictly respect and observe the Line of Actual Control. Furthermore in these agreements, India and China also committed to clarification and confirmation of the Line of Actual Control to reach a common understanding of the alignment. Thus, in late 1990s and upto 2003, the two sides engaged in an exercise to clarify and confirm the LAC. But, thereafter the Chinese side did not show a willingness to pursue the LAC clarification exercise. As a result, there are some areas where the Chinese and Indian perceptions of LAC overlap. In these areas, as also with other sections of the border areas, the various agreements govern the manner in which troops of both sides should operate and deal with situations of face-offs to maintain peace and tranquility.

8. Before I apprise the House of the current developments, let me inform that the Government has an elaborate and time tested coordination mechanism amongst different intelligence agencies including intelligence units of the Central Police Forces and the three armed forces. The technical and human intelligence is continuously gathered in a well coordinated manner. It is shared with the armed forces which help them in taking decisions.

9. Let me now apprise the House of the developments this year. Since April, we had noticed a buildup of troops and armaments by the Chinese side in the border areas adjacent to Eastern Ladakh. In early May, the Chinese side had taken action to hinder the normal, traditional patrolling pattern of our troops in the Galwan Valley area, which resulted in a face-off. Even as this situation was being addressed by the Ground Commanders as per the provisions of our bilateral agreements and protocol, in mid-May the Chinese side made several attempts to transgress the LAC in other parts of the Western Sector. This included Kongka La, Gogra and North Bank of Pangong Lake. These attempts were detected early and consequently responded to appropriately by our armed forces.

forces have also made appropriate counter deployments in these areas to ensure that India's security interests are fully protected. The House should have full confidence that our armed forces will always rise to the challenge and do us all proud. This is still an ongoing situation and obviously involves sensitive operational issues. I would, therefore, not be able to give more details in public and I am confident about the understanding of the House in this regard.

17. This rapid deployment by our armed forces including ITBP has taken place in a challenging time of COVID-19. Their efforts need to be appreciated. It has also been made possible by the high importance that the Government has placed for developing border infrastructure in the last few years. The House is aware that over the last many decades, China had undertaken significant infrastructure construction activity that enhanced their deployment capabilities in the border areas. However, in response, our Government too has stepped up the budget for border infrastructure development to about double the previous levels. As a result, more roads and bridges have been completed in the border areas. This has not only provided much needed connectivity to the local population, but has also provided better logistical support for our armed forces, enabling them to be more alert in the border areas and respond more effectively where required. In the coming years too, the Government remains committed to this objective.

Hon'ble Speaker,

18. I would like to emphasize, that India remains committed to resolving the current issues in our border areas through peaceful dialogue and consultations. It was in pursuit of this objective that I met my Chinese counterpart on 4th September in Moscow and had an in-depth discussion with him. I conveyed in clear terms our concerns related to the actions of the Chinese side, including amassing of large number of troops, their aggressive behavior and attempts to unilaterally alter the status quo that were in violation of the bilateral agreements. I also made it clear that even as we wanted to peacefully resolve the issue and would like the Chinese side to work with us, there should also be no doubt about our determination to protect India's sovereignty and territorial integrity. My colleague, Shri Jai Shankar, the External Affairs Minister, has thereafter met the Chinese Foreign Minister in Moscow on 10th September. The two have reached an agreement that, if implemented sincerely and faithfully by the Chinese side, could lead to complete disengagement and restoration of peace and tranquility in the border areas.

19. As the Members are aware, in the past too we have had situations of prolonged stand-offs in our border areas with China which have been resolved peacefully. Even though the situation this year is very different both in terms of scale of troops involved and the number of friction points, we do remain committed to the peaceful resolution of the current situation. At the same time, the House can be assured that we remain prepared to deal with all contingencies.

20. Hon'ble Speaker this House has had a glorious tradition that whenever the country is faced with a challenge, this House has always exhibited its strength and unity towards the resolve and determination of our Armed Forces. This House has also reposed its full confidence in the indomitable spirit, gallantry and bravery of our Armed Forces deployed on our borders.

21. I can assure you that the morale and motivation of our Armed Forces is very high. The reassuring

visit by our PM has ensured that our commanders and soldiers understand that the entire nation stands behind them in support of the just cause of defending our territorial integrity. They are accordingly being provisioned with suitable clothing, habitat and the required defence wherewithal. The determination of our troops is praise worthy. They are capable of serving at forbidding altitudes with scarce oxygen and in extremely cold temperatures, something that they have effortlessly done over the last many years on Siachen, and Kargil.

22. I will not hesitate to share with this august House that we are facing a challenge in Ladakh and I urge the House to pass a resolution in support of our Armed Forces who have been defending our motherland at great heights and most inclement weather conditions in Ladakh for our safety and security. This is a time when this august House has to come together and reiterate confidence and faith in the valour of the brave armed forces and support them in the mission that they have undertaken to protect the territorial integrity of our motherland.

Jai Hind."

New Delhi

September 15, 2020

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RTI REQUEST DETAILS (आरटीआई अनुरोध विवरण)

Registration Number (पंजीकरण संख्या) : MOEAF/R/P/21/00436

Date of Receipt (प्राप्ति की तारीख) : 03/12/2021

Type of Receipt (रसीद का प्रकार) : Local Receipt

Language of Request (अनुरोध की भाषा) : English

Name (नाम) : I

Address (पता) : I

State (राज्य) : I

Phone Number (फोन नंबर) : Details not provided

(मोबाईल नंबर) : provided

Email-ID (ईमेल-आईडी) : Details not provided

Status (स्थिति)(Rural/Urban) : Details not provided

Education Status : Details not provided

Requester Letter Number (निवेदक पत्र संख्या) : Details not provided

Letter Date : Details not provided

Is Requester Below Poverty Line ? (क्या आवेदक गरीबी रेखा से नीचे का है?) : No

Citizenship Status (नागरिकता) : I

Amount Paid (राशि का भुगतान) : 0 (Received by Ministry of External Affairs) (original recipient)

Mode of Payment (भुगतान का प्रकार) : Details not provided.

Does it concern the life or Liberty of a Person? (क्या यह किसी व्यक्ति के जीवन अथवा स्वतंत्रता से संबंधित है?) : No(Normal)

Request Pertains to (अनुरोध निम्नलिखित संबंधित है) : DS (China), Shri Aniket G. Mandavgane

Information Sought (जानकारी मांगी) : For China related part of point No. 1 only.

Original RTI Text (मूल आरटीआई पाठ) : For point No. 5 only.

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सेना में,

Under Secretary (RTI)
RTI Cell
Ministry of External Affairs
Jawahar Lal Nehru Bhawan, Janpath
New Delhi - 110001

महोदय,

में सूचना का अधिकार अधिनियम 2005 के तहत निम्नलिखित जानकारी चाहता हूँ, इसके लिए 10 रुपये का फॉर्म ऑर्डर लगाकर कर रहा हूँ, इसका नं. 51F 959847 है।

1. चीन और पाकिस्तान के कब्जे में भारत की कितनी जमीन है। इन्हें वापस लेने के लिए क्या कदम उठाये गए हैं।
2. क्या भारत ने औपचारिक रूप से आतंकी धरणा हाफिज खैर, दामुद इब्राहिम यस्मि अहमद बॉकिरी के प्रत्यर्पण (extradition) के लिए पाकिस्तान को पत्र लिखा है। पाकिस्तान ने इस पर क्या जवाब दिया है।
3. फ़ौजदारी में डूल चोकरी, विजय भाल्गा के प्रत्यर्पण की क्या स्थिति है। इन्हें कब तक भारत लाया जा सकेगा।
4. क्या पाकिस्तान ने भारत को Most favoured Nation का दर्जा दिया है। भारत द्वारा पाकिस्तान के MNP का दर्जा वापस लेने की मांग पर सरकार का क्या खतरा है।
5. क्या भारत ने अफगानिस्तान में तालिबान के संपर्क में आने वाली वास्तुगत के साथ उम्मीद है। क्या भारत अफगानिस्तान में अतंज मजने को लेकर भारत, पाकिस्तान के बीच बातचीत हो रही है।

