



**RTI matter/ Time Bound**

Government of India  
Ministry of External Affairs  
New Delhi

**12 April 2024**

**No. E-551/01/2024-RTI**

To:

**Subject: Information sought under Right to Information Act, 2005**

Please refer to your RTI application Registration No. MOEAF/R/E/24/00352 which was received by the undersigned CPIO on 15 March 2024.

2. It may be noted that under the provisions of the RTI ACT 2005, a CPIO/Public Authority is under obligation to provide an applicant only that information which exists in the records and which is held by or under the control of that authority. Information regarding your query such as is available with the undersigned CPIO is being shared herewith. No further information is available with the CPIO.

3. With respect to points 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7, statements of the Hon'ble Raksha Mantri in Parliament in 2020 and 2021, as well as official press releases from 2021 and 2022 are attached for your reference.

4. With respect to point 6; it may be noted that this issue has been responded to in Parliament previously. A copy of an answer to a Parliament question on the topic is attached for reference.

5. If you are aggrieved with this reply, you may file an appeal to Shri Aniket Govind Mandavgane, 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,

(Priyanka Sohoni)

DS (China) & CPIO

Room no. 270 A, South Block,  
New Delhi – 110001

Telefax: 23011356

Email: [dschina2@mea.gov.in](mailto:dschina2@mea.gov.in)

**Encl: As above**

**Copy to: US (RTI), JNB, MEA, New Delhi**

Sitemap    Contact    Feedback    Intranet  
Media Loan    Screen Reader Access

Skip to main content

English ▼

What's New

## 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.

10. We made it clear to the Chinese side both through diplomatic and military channels that China was, by such actions, attempting to unilaterally alter the status quo. It was categorically conveyed that this was unacceptable.

11. Given the growing friction along the LAC, the Senior Commanders of the two sides in a meeting on June 6 2020 agreed on a process of disengagement that involved reciprocal actions. Both sides also agreed to respect and abide by the LAC and not undertake any activity to alter the status quo. However in violation of this the Chinese side created a violent face off on June 15th at Galwan. Our brave soldiers laid down their lives and also inflicted costs including casualties on the Chinese side,

12. The conduct of our armed forces throughout these incidents shows that while they maintained "Sayyam" in the face of provocative actions, they also equally displayed "Shaurya" when required to protect the territorial integrity of India. I would like the House to join me in recognizing the courage and valour of our soldiers, who undergo immense hardship in the most difficult conditions to keep us all safe and secure.

13. While no one should doubt our determination to safeguard our borders, India believes that mutual

respect and mutual sensitivity are the basis for peaceful relations with neighbours. As we want to resolve the current situation through dialogue, 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. The Chinese side, on its part, took the position that the situation should be handled in a responsible manner and ensure peace and tranquility as per bilateral agreements and protocol.

14. Even as these discussions were going on, the Chinese side again engaged in provocative military manoeuvres on the night of 29th and 30th August in an attempt to change the status quo in the South Bank area of Pangong Lake. But yet again, timely and firm actions by our armed forces along the LAC prevented such attempts from succeeding.

15. As is clear from these events, the Chinese actions reflect a disregard of our various bilateral agreements. The amassing of the troops by China goes against the 1993 and 1996 Agreements. Respecting and strictly observing the Line of Actual Control is the basis for peace and tranquility in the border areas and explicitly recognized in both 1993 and 1996 agreements. While our armed forces abide scrupulously by it, this has not been reciprocated by the Chinese side. Their actions have led to face-offs and frictions from time to time along the LAC. As I mentioned earlier, the agreements have detailed procedures and norms to deal with the situation of face-offs. However, in the recent incidents, this year, the violent conduct of Chinese forces has been in complete violation of all mutually agreed norms.

16. As of now, the Chinese side has mobilized a large number of troops and armaments along the LAC as well as in the depth areas. There are several friction areas in Eastern Ladakh including Gogra, Kongka La and North and South Banks of the Pangong Lake. In response to China's actions, our armed 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

[Write a Comment](#)

[Terms and Conditions](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [Copyright Policy](#) [Hyperlinking Policy](#) [Accessibility Statement](#) [Help](#)

Copyright © 2023 Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. All Rights Reserved.

Website content managed by XPD Division, Ministry of External Affairs;

Designed & developed by M/s Silver Touch Technologies Limited; Hosted by National Informatics Centre.

Visitors: 212026197

Page last updated on: 15/9/2020

# Rajnath Singh

Defence Minister of India

- 
- 
- 
- 

□

Home

Rajnath Singh

Biography

Journey

Achievements

Speeches

Videos

Speeches

Quotes

Speeches of Parliament

Media

Media Coverage

Press Release

News (English)

News (Hindi)

International

Gallery

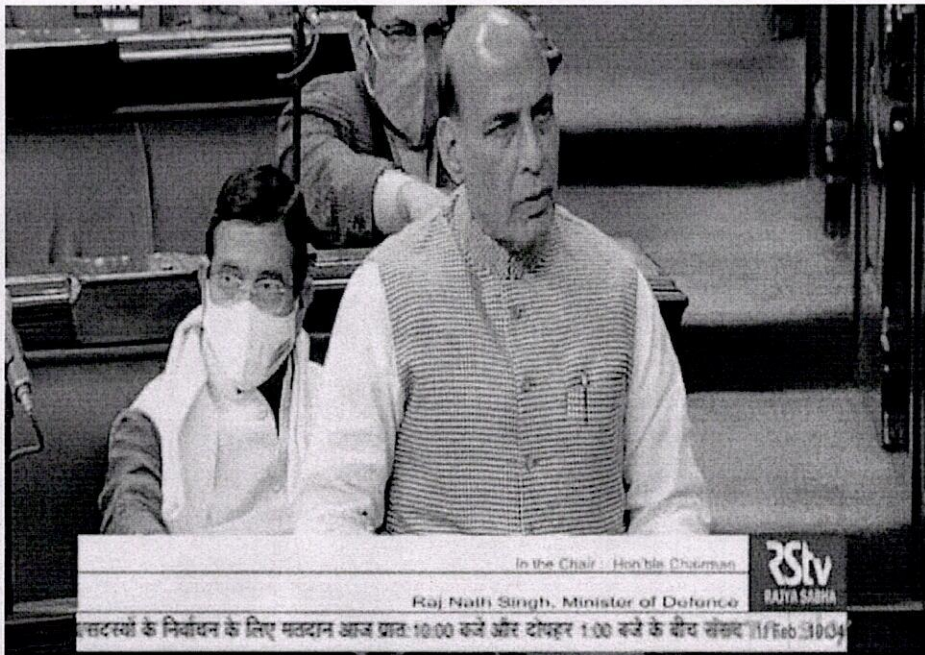
GALLERY

Videos

Download Centre

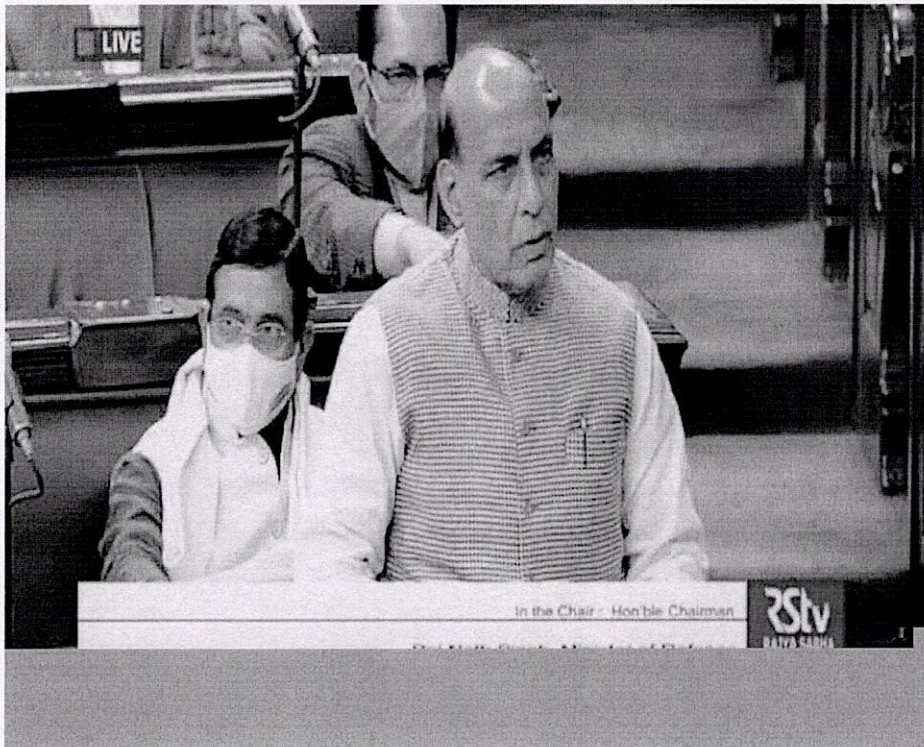
Connect

Write to Raksha Mantri



## Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh's statement in Rajya Sabha on 'Present Situation in Eastern Ladakh

Editor February 11, 2021



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.

Ministry of Defence

# PRESS RELEASE :DISENGAGEMENT AT PP 17A

Posted On: 06 AUG 2021 5:04PM by PIB Delhi

1. As conveyed earlier this week, the twelfth round of talks between the Corps Commanders of India and China were held on 31 July 2021 at Chushul Moldo Meeting Point in Eastern Ladakh.
2. The two sides had a candid and in-depth exchange of views on resolution of remaining areas related to disengagement along the Line of Actual Control in the Western Sector of India-China border areas. As an outcome of the meeting, both sides agreed on disengagement in the area of Gogra. The troops in this area have been in a face-off situation since May last year.
3. As per the agreement, both sides have ceased forward deployments in this area in a phased, coordinated and verified manner. The disengagement process was carried out over two days i.e. 04 and 05 August 2021. The troops of both sides are now in their respective permanent bases.
4. All temporary structures and other allied infrastructure created in the area by both sides have been dismantled and mutually verified. The landform in the area has been restored by both sides to pre-stand off period.
5. This agreement ensures that the LAC in this area will be strictly observed and respected by both sides, and that there is no unilateral change in status quo.
6. With this one more sensitive area of face-off has been resolved. Both sides have expressed commitment to take the talks forward and resolve the remaining issues along the LAC in the Western Sector.
7. The Indian Army along with ITBP is totally committed to ensure the sovereignty of the nation and maintain peace & tranquility along the LAC in the Western Sector.

\*\*\*\*

**SC,VBY**

(Release ID: 1743220) Visitor Counter : 2888

Read this release in: Urdu , Hindi , Marathi

Sitemap Contact Feedback Intranet  
Media Login  
Skip to main content Screen Reader Access

English ▼

What's New

## Official Spokesperson's response to media queries on disengagement at area Gogra-Hot Springs (PP-15)

September 09, 2022

**In response to media queries on disengagement at area Gogra-Hot Springs (PP-15), the Official Spokesperson, Shri Arindam Bagchi said:**

"The sixteenth round of talks between the Corps Commanders of India and China was held at Chushul Moldo Meeting Point on 17 July 2022. Since then, the two sides had maintained regular contact to build on the progress achieved during the talks to resolve the relevant issues along the LAC in the Western Sector of India-China border areas.

As a result, both sides have now agreed on disengagement in the area of Gogra-Hot Springs (PP-15).

As per the agreement, the disengagement process in this area started on 08 September 2022 at 0830 hrs and will be completed by 12 September 2022. The two sides have agreed to cease forward deployments in this area in a phased, coordinated and verified manner, resulting in the return of the troops of both sides to their respective areas.

It has been agreed that all temporary structures and other allied infrastructure created in the area by both sides will be dismantled and mutually verified. The landforms in the area will be restored to pre-stand-off period by both sides.

The agreement ensures that the LAC in this area will be strictly observed and respected by both sides, and that there will be no unilateral change in status quo.

With the resolution of stand-off at PP-15, both sides mutually agreed to take the talks forward and resolve the remaining issues along LAC and restore peace and tranquility in India-China border areas."

New Delhi  
September 09, 2022

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1014**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.7.2017

**INCURSIONS BY CHINESE TROOPS**

1014. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken any steps in regard to the repetitive and reported incursions of our neighbouring country China on borders of Ladakh and the North East;
- (b) if so, details of steps being taken in this regard; and
- (c) what are the actual conditions prevailing on the Line of Actual Control?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
DR. SUBHASH BHAMRE

(a) to (c): There have been no instances of incursions of Chinese troops in Ladakh and the North East. Since there is no commonly delineated Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the border areas between India and China, there are areas along the LAC where both sides have differing perception of LAC. Due to both sides undertaking patrolling upto their respective perception of the LAC, transgressions do occur.

Government regularly takes up any transgression along the LAC with the Chinese side through established mechanisms such as border personnel meetings, flag meetings, meetings of Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs and diplomatic channels.

\*\*\*\*\*

## RTI REQUEST DETAILS (आरटीआई अनुरोध विवरण)

Registration Number (पंजीकरण संख्या) :	MOEAF/R/E/24/00352	Date of Receipt (प्राप्ति की तारीख) :	11/03/2024
Type of Receipt (रसीद का प्रकार) :	Online Receipt	Language of Request (अनुरोध की भाषा) :	English
Amount Paid (राशि का भुगतान) :	10 ) (original recipient)	Mode of Payment (भुगतान का प्रकार)	Payment Gateway
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), Ms. Priyanka Sohoni
Information Sought (जानकारी मांगी):	<p>1) What extent of the sovereign land of the Republic of India has been acquired by the China by India, across 1996 mutually agreed upon Line of Actual Control? Kindly provide a map of the same.</p> <p>2) What extent of Indian sovereign land has been ceded to China due to further creation of buffer zones or no mans land, across the mutually agreed upon Line of Actual Control in 1996? Kindly provide a map of the same.</p> <p>3) What extent of Indian sovereign land has been ceded to the China since 2014? Kindly provide a map of the same, each year wise.</p> <p>4) What extent of Indian Sovereign land has been lost due to the further creation of buffer zones or no mans land since 2014? Kindly provide a map of the same.</p> <p>5) Under what agreement or otherwise India had ceded the Aksai Chin region to China? If so, kindly provide documentation of the same, including the area ceded.</p> <p>6) How many times, and on what dates has there been Chinese military illegal incursions over Indian territory across the mutually agreed upon Line of Actual Control between the countries since 1996? Kindly provide details of the same.</p> <p>7) How many people have been displaced in India due to the creation of buffer zones or no mans land, or ceding of Indian territory, since the drawing of the mutually agreed upon Line of Actual Control between the countries since 1996? Kindly provide details of the same.</p>		
<input type="button" value="Print"/> <input type="button" value="Save"/> <input type="button" value="Close"/>			

**ACTION HISTORY OF RTI REQUEST No.MOEAF/R/E/24/00352****Applicant Name****Text of Application**

1) What extent of the sovereign land of the Republic of India has been acquired by the China by India, across 1996 mutually agreed upon Line of Actual Control? Kindly provide a map of the same. 2) What extent of Indian sovereign land has been ceded to China due to further creation of buffer zones or no mans land, across the mutually agreed upon Line of Actual Control in 1996? Kindly provide a map of the same. 3) What extent of Indian sovereign land has been ceded to the China since 2014? Kindly provide a map of the same, each year wise. 4) What extent of Indian Sovereign land has been lost due to the further creation of buffer zones or no mans land since 2014? Kindly provide a map of the same. 5) Under what agreement or otherwise India had ceded the Aksai Chin region to China? If so, kindly provide documentation of the same, including the area ceded. 6) How many times, and on what dates has there been Chinese military illegal incursions over Indian territory across the mutually agreed upon Line of Actual Control between the countries since 1996? Kindly provide details of the same. 7) How many people have been displaced in India due to the creation of buffer zones or no mans land, or ceding of Indian territory, since the drawing of the mutually agreed upon Line of Actual Control between the countries since 1996? Kindly provide details of the same.

**Reply of Application**

SN.	Action Taken	Date of Action	Action Taken By	Remarks
1	RTI REQUEST RECEIVED	11/03/2024	Nodal Officer	
2	REQUEST FORWARDED TO CPIO	15/03/2024	Nodal Officer	Forwarded to CPIO(s) : (1) DS (China), Ms. Priyanka Sohoni

Print

केन्द्रीय सूचना आयोग  
Central Information Commission  
बाबागंगनाथमार्ग, मुनिरका  
Baba Gangnath Marg, Munirka  
नई दिल्ली, New Delhi – 110067

द्वितीय अपील संख्या / Second Appeal No. **CIC/DODEF/A/2023/112078/MOEF**

Dr. Subramanian Swamy

... अपीलकर्ता / Appellant

VERSUS/बनाम

1. PIO, Ministry of External Affairs
2. PIO, Ministry of Home Affairs
3. PIO, Ministry of Defence

... प्रतिवादीगण / Respondent

Date of Hearing : 11.03.2024

Date of Decision : 11.03.2024

**Chief Information Commissioner : Shri Heeralal Samariya**

**Relevant facts emerging from appeal:**

- RTI application filed on : 10.11.2022  
PIO replied on : 21.12.2022  
First Appeal filed on : 12.01.2023  
First Appellate Order on : 03.03.2023  
2<sup>nd</sup> Appeal/complaint received on : 17.03.2023

**Information sought and background of the case:**

The Appellant filed an RTI application dated 10.11.2022 before the PIO, MHA seeking information on the following points:-

1. *What extent of the Sovereign Land of the Republic of India has been acquired by the People's Republic of China, across the 1996 mutually agreed upon Line of Actual Control? Kindly provide a map of the same, showing the exact ground portion, as of November 2022.*
2. *What extent of India's Sovereign land has been ceded to China due to the further creation of buffer zones or "no man's land", across the mutually agreed upon Line of Actual Control of 1996? Kindly provide a map of the same.*
3. *What extent of India's sovereign land has been ceded to the People's Republic of China since 2014? Kindly provide a map for the same, each year wise.*
4. *What extent of India's Sovereign land has been lost due to the further creation of buffer zones or "no man's land" since 2014? Kindly provide a map of the same.*
5. *Under what agreement or otherwise India had ceded the Aksai Chin region to China? If so, kindly provide documentation of the same, including the area ceded.*
6. *How many times, and on what dates has there been Chinese military illegal incursions over Indian Territory across the mutually agreed upon Line of Actual Control between the countries since 1996? Kindly provide details of the same.*
7. *How many people have been displaced in India due to the creation of buffer zones or no man's land, or ceding of India's territory, since the drawing of the mutually agreed upon Line of Actual Control between the countries since 1996? Kindly provide details of the same."*

The CPIO, MHA transferred the matter to the Commandant, Border Management-I vide letter dated 18.11.2022 under Section 6(3) of the RTI Act under intimation to the Appellant, wherefrom the matter was further transferred to PIO, Ministry of Defence vide letter dated 07.12.2022. The PIO, Ministry of Defence, Dept. of Military Affairs vide letter dated 21.12.2022 transferred the RTI Application to CPIO, Army HQ and further to CPIO, Ministry of Home Affairs vide letter dated 29.12.2022.

Dissatisfied with the response received from the CPIO, the Appellant filed a First Appeal dated 12.01.2023 before the MHA. The FAA, MHA vide order dated 03.03.2023 held as under:-

*"4. Whereas, it is found that the information is not available with MoD as well as Army HQ, as stated in Para 2 & 3 above. Your RTI application No. DMAND/R/T/22/03796 dated 16/12/2022 on which you have filed first appeal is transferred under section 6(3) of RTI Act, 2005 to MEA, RTI Cell for providing the information available with them on the RTI application.*

*5. Whereas, it is found that no further action is pending with CPIO, DMA and accordingly the first appeal is disposed off."*

A reply dated 05.04.2023 from the MEA, DS(China) is found on record, which reveals that the following information was disclosed:

*2. It may be noted that under the provisions of the RTI Act 2005, a CPIO/Public Authority is under obligation to provide an applicant only that information which exists in the records and which is held by or under the control of that authority. Information regarding your query such as is available with the undersigned CPIO is being shared herewith.*

*3. With respect to points 1,2,3,4,5 and 7, statements of the Hon'ble Raksha Mantri in Parliament on 15 September 2020 and 11 September 2021, as well as official press releases dated 06 August 2021 and 09 September 2022 are attached for your reference.*

*4. With respect to point 6, it may be noted that this issue has been responded to in Parliament previously. A copy of an answer to a Parliament question on the topic is attached for reference.*

Aggrieved and dissatisfied, the Appellant approached the Commission with the instant Second Appeal.

#### **Facts emerging in Course of Hearing:**

A written submission has been received from CPIO, Ministry of Defence vide letter dated 04.03.2024 reiterating the above facts.

Written submission dated 04.03.2024 has been received from the Appellant stating that he had received no effective response. The Appellant further contended that the information sought is not barred from disclosure under Section 8(1) of the RTI Act and even if the information sought falls within any of the exceptions, the PIO was obliged to furnish a clear rationale for rejection as per Section 7(8)(i) of the Act. He averred that information had been denied to him in violation of the provisions of the RTI Act.

Hearing was scheduled after giving prior notice to both the parties.



**Appellant:** Present with Advocates Shri Vishesh Kanodia and Shri Vaidushya Parth

**Respondent:** Shri Parimal Bharti – Director, MHA; Ms. P Sohoni – Dy. Secretary & CPIO, MEA and Shri Suresh Kumar – US, MM-I, MHA were present during the hearing.

During the course of hearing, the Appellant reiterated his contentions from the written submission dated 04.03.2024 stating that though his RTI application had been repeatedly transferred, he had received no information at all from the Respondents so far. The Respondent from MEA maintained that the RTI application had been received by the MEA on 10.03.2023 and she had furnished information held in the official records, vide reply dated 05.04.2023.

A copy of the reply dated 05.04.2023 was provided once again to the Appellant during the course of hearing. However, he expressed dissatisfaction with the response given by the CPIO, MEA.

**Decision:**

Upon hearing averments of the contesting parties and after perusal of records of the case, the Respondent – PIO, MEA is hereby directed to revisit the RTI Application and furnish a point wise revised reply to the queries raised by the Appellant within four weeks of receipt of this order. the Respondent shall submit a compliance report before the Commission in this regard within one week thereafter.

The appeal is disposed off with the above directions.

**Heeralal Samariya (हीरालाल सामरिया)**  
**Chief Information Commissioner (मुख्य सूचना आयुक्त)**

Authenticated true copy  
(अभिप्रमाणित सत्यापित प्रति)

S. K. Chitkara (एस. के. चिटकारा)  
Dy. Registrar (उप-पंजीयक)  
011-26186535