



RTI matter/ Time Bound

Government of India
Ministry of External Affairs
New Delhi

No. E/551/1/2020-RTI

07 December 2020

To:



Subject: Information sought under Right to Information Act, 2005

Sir,

Please refer to your RTI application bearing Registration No. MOEAF/R/P/20/00395 addressed to Ministry to RTI cell, Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi received by this Division on 09 November 2020.

2. It may be noted that under the provisions of RTI Act, 2005, a CPIO/ Public Authority is under obligation to provide an applicant only that information which exists in the records and that which is held by or under the control of that authority.

3. The undersigned CPIO does not have any information pertaining to 'Letter correspondence' regarding BRI to share. In so far as other related information available with the undersigned CPIO is concerned, the same is already in public domain and can be seen at <https://www.mea.gov.in>. Copies of some Parliamentary Questions and Official Spokesperson's statements regarding BRI are being enclosed for ready reference.

4. 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,

(Karthik G. Iyer)

DS (China) & CPIO

Room no. 270 A, South Block,

New Delhi - 110001

Telefax: 23011356

Email: dschina2@mea.gov.in

CC to:

1. Ms. Deepa Jain, Under Secretary (RTI), MEA, New Delhi

RTI REQUEST DETAILS (आरटीआई अनुरोध विवरण)

Registration Number (पंजीकरण संख्या) :	MOEAF/R/P/20/00395	Date of Receipt (प्राप्ति की तारीख) :	09/11/2020
Type of Receipt (रसीद का प्रकार) :	Local Receipt	Language of Request (अनुरोध की भाषा) :	English
Name (नाम) :			
Address (पता) :			
State (राज्य) :			
Phone Number (फोन नंबर) :			
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)	Indian
Amount Paid (राशि का भुगतान) :	10) (original recipient)	Mode of Payment (भुगतान का प्रकार)	Postal Order
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) :	US (China)
Information Sought (जानकारी मांगी):	for appropriate action.		
<div>Print</div> <div>Save</div> <div>Close</div>			

Application for seeking information

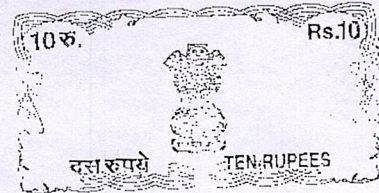
To,

Chief Public Information Officer,

Office of Ministry of External Affairs,

New Delhi.

डॉ. सी. 2611
Dy. No. RTI Cell/2013
Kolkata dated 15/10/2020



3. Particulars of Information Required:

a. Concerned department : Ministry of External Affairs

b. Particulars of Information Required

- i. Details of information required: Photocopy of Letter correspondence regarding Belt and Road Initiative
- ii. Period for which information asked for: 2014 to 2019
- iii. Other Details: -

Date: 15/10/2020.

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QUESTION NO.606 BRI AND CPEC

February 05, 2020

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 OF 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.

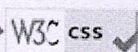
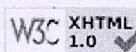
Further, the Government is of the firm belief that connectivity initiatives must be based on universally recognized international norms. They must follow principles of openness, transparency and financial responsibility and must be pursued in a manner that respects sovereignty, equality and territorial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

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QUESTION NO.849 ONE BELT AND ONE ROAD INITIATIVE

June 26, 2019

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.849

TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.06.2019

ONE BELT AND ONE ROAD INITIATIVE

849. SHRI RITESH PANDEY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) The current stance of the Government on China's One Belt and One Road Initiative (BRI);
- (b) Whether the Government plans to use economic development projects as a foreign policy tool in South Asia, South-east Asia and Africa;
- (c) If so, the planned investment therein; and
- (d) If not, the strategies in place to counter BRI's economic and foreign policy influence among India's strategic Asian and African partners?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

[SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN]

(a) Government's position on China's 'One Belt One Road' (OBOR) or 'Belt and Road Initiative' (BRI) has been clear and consistent. The inclusion of the so-called 'China-Pakistan Economic Corridor' (CPEC), which passes through parts of the Indian state of Jammu & Kashmir under illegal occupation of Pakistan, as a flagship project of 'OBOR/BRI', reflects

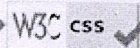
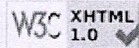
lack of appreciation of India's concerns on the issue of sovereignty and territorial integrity. Government has conveyed to the Chinese side its concerns about their activities in Pakistan Occupied Jammu & Kashmir and asked them to cease these activities.

Expansion and strengthening of connectivity is an integral part of India's economic and diplomatic initiatives. At the same time, 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 nations.

(b) to (d) India has a robust development cooperation agenda that constitutes a significant dimension of its close and multi-faceted ties with many partner countries, including in India's neighbourhood. Extension of Government of India (GoI) Lines of Credit (LOCs) on concessional terms is an important component of this development partnership in diverse areas of socio-economic development such as power, transport, connectivity, agriculture and irrigation, manufacturing industries, water and sanitation, healthcare etc.

As part of the GoI LOC programme, 279 LOCs have been extended to 63 countries of Asia, Africa, Latin America, Caribbean, Oceania and Commonwealth of Independent States worth nearly US\$ 28 billion. Of this, 254 projects aggregating nearly US\$ 4.70 billion have been completed, while 194 projects worth nearly US\$ 19 billion are under implementation. These include 94 connectivity projects in five countries in India's immediate neighbourhood being taken up with GoI LOC worth nearly US\$ 6.6 billion.

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QUESTION NO.2761 INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT AGAINST BRI

December 12, 2019

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2761
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.12.2019

INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT AGAINST BRI

2761. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

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

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF 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 '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 '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.

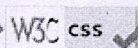
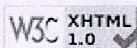
Further, the Government is of the firm belief that connectivity initiatives must be based on universally recognized international norms. They must follow principles of openness, transparency and financial responsibility and must be pursued in a manner that respects sovereignty, equality and territorial 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 report in March 2019 titled 'EU-China- A Strategic Outlook' in which it has been highlighted that Chinese investments in third countries frequently neglect socioeconomic and financial sustainability and may result in high-level indebtedness and transfer of control over strategic assets and resources.

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Official Spokesperson's response to a query on participation of India in OBOR/BRI Forum

May 13, 2017

Responding to a query on participation of India in OBOR/BRI Forum, the official spokesperson said:

We had received formal invitation to participate in the 6 separate forums that China is organizing as part of the Belt and Road Forum being held in Beijing on May 14-16, 2017.

We are of firm belief that connectivity initiatives must be based on universally recognized international norms, good governance, rule of law, openness, transparency and equality. Connectivity initiatives must follow principles of financial responsibility to avoid projects that would create unsustainable debt burden for communities; balanced ecological and environmental protection and preservation standards; transparent assessment of project costs; and skill and technology transfer to help long term running and maintenance of the assets created by local communities. Connectivity projects must be pursued in a manner that respects sovereignty and territorial integrity.

India shares international community's desire for enhancing physical connectivity and believes that it should bring greater economic benefits to all in an equitable and balanced manner. We are working with many countries and international institutions in support of physical and digital connectivity in our own immediate and near neighbourhood.

Expansion and strengthening of connectivity is an integral part of India's economic and diplomatic initiatives. Under the 'Act East' policy, we are pursuing the Trilateral Highway project; under our 'Neighbourhood First' policy we are developing multimodal linkages with Myanmar and Bangladesh; under our 'Go West' strategy, we are engaged with Iran on Chabahar Port and with Iran and other partners in Central Asia on International North South Transport Corridor. BBIN initiative is aimed at enhancing logistics efficiencies in South Asian region. We are also actively considering acceding to TIR Convention.

Guided by our principled position in the matter, we have been urging China to engage in a meaningful dialogue on its connectivity initiative, 'One Belt, One Road' which was later renamed as 'Belt and Road Initiative'. We are awaiting a

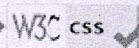
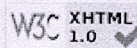
positive response from the Chinese side.

Regarding the so-called 'China-Pakistan Economic Corridor', which is being projected as the flagship project of the BRI/OBOR, the international community is well aware of India's position. No country can accept a project that ignores its core concerns on sovereignty and territorial integrity.

New Delhi

13 May 2017

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Official Spokesperson's response to a query on media reports regarding possible cooperation with China on OBOR/BRI

April 05, 2018

In response to a query on media reports regarding possible cooperation with China on OBOR/BRI, the Official Spokesperson said:

"We have seen some media reports alluding to our possible cooperation with China in 'One Belt One Road' (OBOR)/'Belt and Road Initiative' (BRI).

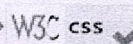
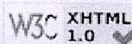
Our position on OBOR/BRI is clear and there is no change. The so-called 'China-Pakistan Economic Corridor' violates India's sovereignty and territorial integrity. No country can accept a project that ignores its core concerns on sovereignty and territorial integrity.

We are of firm belief that connectivity initiatives must be based on universally recognized international norms, good governance, rule of law, openness, transparency and equality, and must be pursued in a manner that respects sovereignty and territorial integrity."

New Delhi

April 05, 2018

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