

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.589
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.07.2010**

VISIT OF DIGNITARIES

**†589. SHRI GOPINATH MUNDE:
SHRI P. LINGAM:
DR. M. THAMBIDURAI:
SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
SHRI P.C. MOHAN:
SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:
SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY:
SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU:
SHRI K.R.G. REDDY:
SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY:**

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of visits by foreign dignitaries to India during the last four months till date;**
- (b) the details of issues on which deliberations were held with them including the bilateral agreements/MoUs/treaties signed;**
- (c) the details of visits undertaken by the Prime Minister as well as External Affairs Minister during the above period;**
- (d) the details of discussions held, agreements/MoUs/treaties signed and the outcome thereof; and**
- (e) the benefits that would accrue to the country as a result of signing the bilateral agreements/MoUs/treaties and the steps taken by the Government to further improve the relations with these countries?**

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI S.M. KRISHNA)**

(a) Details of visits of foreign Heads of State, Vice Presidents, Heads of Government and External Affairs/Foreign Ministers from March 28 to July 28, 2010 are at Annexure – I.

(c) Details of visits of Hon'ble Prime Minister and Hon'ble External Affairs Minister from March 28 to July 28, 2010 are at Annexure – II.

(b) to (e) Details are at Annexure – III.

Annexure-I as referred to in reply Part (a) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.589 for answer on 28-07-2010 regarding "Visit of Dignitaries".

Incoming visits of
Heads of State, Vice Presidents, Heads of Government,
and External Affairs/Foreign Ministers
from March 28 to July 28, 2010

Sl.No.	Dignitary	Dates
1.	H.E. Mr. Hamid Karzai, President of Afghanistan	April 26-30
2.	H.E. Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, President of Turkmenistan	May 24-26
3.	H.E. Mr. James Alix Michel, President of Republic of Seychelles	June 1-3
4.	H.E. Dr. Jacob Zuma, President of South Africa	June 2-4
5.	H.E. Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa, President of the Democratic Republic of Sri Lanka	June 8-11
6.	H.E. Lt Gen Mompoti S. Merafhe, Vice President of the Republic of Botswana	June 15-19
7.	H.E. Baroness Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission.	June 22-25

Annexure-II as referred to in reply Part (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.589 for answer on 28-07-2010 regarding "Visit of Dignitaries".

Outgoing visits of
Hon'ble Prime Minister and Hon'ble External Affairs Minister
from March 28 to July 28, 2010

Sl.No.	Dignitary	Dates
1.	Prime Minister to USA (Nuclear Security Summit) and Brasil (IBSA and BRIC Summits)	April 10-17
2.	Prime Minister to Bhutan(16th SAARC Summit)	April 28-30
3.	Prime Minister's visit to Canada (G-20 Summit)	June 25-29
4.	EAM to Beijing, China for 60th Anniversary of India-China diplomatic relations	April 5-8
5.	EAM to Thimpu, Bhutan for SAARC Summit	April 26-30
6.	EAM to Astana, Kazakhstan for bilateral meeting	May 11-13
7.	EAM to Tehran, Iran for G-15 Ministerial Meeting	May 15-18
8.	EAM to Washington, USA for the India-US Strategic Dialogue	June 2-6
9.	EAM to Tashkent, Uzbekistan for SCO Summit	June 10-11
10.	EAM to Seoul for bilateral visit	June 16-19
11.	EAM to Mauritius and Mozambique for bilateral visits	July 2 - 6
12.	EAM to Islamabad, Pakistan for bilateral meeting	July 14-16
13.	EAM to Kabul, Afghanistan for Kabul Conference	July 19-20

Annexure-III as referred to in reply Part (b), (d) & (e) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.589 for answer on 28-07-2010 regarding “Visit of Dignitaries”.

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Afghanistan : The visit of President H.E. Mr. Hamid Karzai carried forward the sequence of high-level interaction between the two countries and contributed to strengthening the strategic partnership between India and Afghanistan.

The visit provided an opportunity for both sides to discuss bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest, and for India to express its firm commitment and support to the Government and people of Afghanistan as they build a peaceful, democratic, pluralistic and prosperous Afghanistan.

Turkmenistan : The visit of Turkmen President to India and our own EAM’s visits to Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan have given an impetus to our relations with the Central Asian region, which is in our extended neighbourhood.

During the meetings between Turkmenistan and India, the entire gamut of bilateral relations was discussed. The following five agreements were signed during the visit:

- i) Agreement on Mutual Exemption of Visa for holders of Diplomatic Passports**
- ii) Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Science and Technology**
- iii) Agreement on Cooperation in Higher Education**
- iv) Agreement on Economic and Trade Cooperation**
- v) Programme of Cooperation in the fields of Culture, Art, Tourism, Science, Education, Mass Media and Sports.**

The agreements signed with Turkmenistan have laid down the framework for further expanding and strengthening relations between India and Turkmenistan.

Seychelles : Seychelles and India held talks on a wide range of issues of bilateral cooperation and future areas for partnership, including economic cooperation, capacity building, defence and security cooperation, enhancing trade and investment, cooperation in the fight against piracy. It was agreed that India will continue its commitment in building of Seychelles’ infrastructure.

Following Agreements were signed during the visit:

- (i) A Line of Credit of US\$ 10 million to Seychelles to the Development Bank of Seychelles and rescheduling of the repayment terms of the US\$ 8 million line of credit offered in 2007 were announced; and**
- (ii) Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPPA).**

South Africa : A wide range of subjects of bilateral interest covering economic cooperation, trade and investment, agriculture, education, information and communication technology, health, science and technology and culture were discussed at the delegation-level talks between the two sides. Both sides have pledged to support each other's candidacies for the elected seats of the UN Security Council, elections for which would be held later this year.

The following Agreement/MoUs were signed during the visit:

- (i) Air Services Agreement;**
- (ii) MoU on Cooperation in the Field of Agriculture and allied sectors; and**
- (iii) MoU on Cooperation between the Foreign Service Institute of India and the Diplomatic Academy of South Africa.**

Sri Lanka : India and Sri Lanka discussed issues encompassing the entire gamut of bilateral relations including trade, services and investment, development cooperation, science and technology, culture and education were discussed.

The following Agreement/MoUs/Treaty were signed during the visit:

- i) Renewal of Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP);**
- ii) Renewal of MoU on Indian Grant Assistance for Implementation of Small Development Schemes between India and Sri Lanka;**
- iii) MoU on Transfer of Sentenced Prisoners;**
- iv) MoU on Setting up of a Women's Trade Facilitation Centre & Community Learning Centre at Batticaloa;**
- v) Mou On Interconnection of Electricity Grids; and**
- vi) MoU on Talaimannar-Madhu Railway Line**
- vii) Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters;**

The MoUs signed with Sri Lanka will directly address infrastructural and other issues in Northern and Eastern Sri Lanka and provide for the rehabilitation and resettlement of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). It will also address the vulnerable sections of IDPs viz. widows and children; provide greater cooperation in the areas of transfer of sentenced prisoners and exchange of information and assistance in criminal matters; further promote cultural exchanges and also provide for Power Grid Inter-connectivity between India and Sri Lanka.

Botswana : Areas of bilateral interest covering economic cooperation, agriculture, defence, education, information and communication technology, cooperation in the sector of Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises, and science and technology were the focus of discussions. Both sides are now renewing the relationship in a contemporary context and trying to find mutuality for cooperation in the fields of MSME sector, defence, agriculture, trade and investment. They reiterated their resolve to continue bilateral dialogue and cooperation at various international fora.

During the visit, an MOU on Cooperation in the Field of Small Medium and Micro Enterprises, and an Agreement on Cooperation in the fields of Science and Technology were signed.

European Commission : European Union and India discussed bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest. The talks were held in the backdrop of a post-Lisbon EU treaty, as a continuation of the earlier Troika format.

PM's Visit to the US for Nuclear Security Summit

At the Nuclear Security Summit, held at the initiative of President Obama, PM identified nuclear security as one of the foremost challenges the world community faces today. He said that the primary responsibility for ensuring nuclear security rests at the national level, but national responsibility must be accompanied by responsible behaviour by States. PM said that there should be "zero tolerance for individuals and groups which engage in illegal trafficking in nuclear items". He also announced that India will set up a "Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership". The Centre will consist of four schools dealing with Advanced Nuclear Energy System Studies, Nuclear Security, Radiation Safety, and the application of Radioisotopes and Radiation Technology in the areas of healthcare, agriculture and food. He invited participation of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and other interested foreign partners in the Centre.

Prime Minister's visit to Brazil (IBSA and BRIC Summits)

IBSA : Discussions at the IBSA Summit held in Brasilia on 15 April 2010 focused on issues relating to cooperation in the areas of science & technology, energy, space science, ocean research, South-South cooperation, sustainable development, food security, climate change, terrorism, Doha round, reform of the United Nations, strengthening of dialogue among civil societies and promotion of sporting links and tourism. A Summit Declaration was issued after the meeting of the Heads of State/Government of India, Brazil and South Africa.

Two MoUs were signed on Science, Technology and Innovation and Solar Energy at the Summit. Two Documents on "Social Development Strategy" and "Future of Agriculture Cooperation in IBSA" were adopted at the Summit.

Following the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Brazil and South Africa and Commerce and Industry Minister of India with the Foreign Minister of Palestine, a Communiqué on the Situation in the Middle East was issued.

BRIC : The BRIC Summit focused on climate change, sustainable development, food security, energy security, terrorism, global governance, international trade and reform of international financial institutions and of the United Nations.

A Joint Statement was issued after the Summit. A Memorandum of Cooperation among BRIC Development Banks was signed on the sidelines of the Summit.

Visit of Prime Minister to Bhutan

Prime Minister attended the 16th SAARC Summit in Thimpu with the theme “Climate Change”. The Summit provided an opportunity to reflect on what the member countries have achieved in these two and half decades, what more needs to be done, and on the kind of a South Asia they wish to create for their present and future generations. Prime Minister emphasized the need for greater regional cooperation in areas such as agriculture, forestry, education, healthcare, women’s empowerment, skill development and technological innovations. He shared India’s vision of a prosperous and vibrant South Asia playing its rightful role in shaping the global discourse on issues facing the world.

A Summit Declaration on Climate Change, a Convention on Cooperation on Environment and an Agreement on Trade in Services were concluded.

The signing of the SAARC Convention on Environment will open up possibilities of regional cooperation on environment and climate change issues. SAARC Agreement on Trade in Services is expected to strengthen SAARC economic cooperation and ensure that regional trading arrangements in services in SAARC shall act as avenues for achieving objectives of economic development and growth in the region by expanding intra-regional investment and production opportunities.

On the bilateral front, Prime Ministers of India and Bhutan launched two new large hydropower projects as part of India’s commitment to jointly develop 10,000 MWs of hydro-power capacity in Bhutan by the year 2020. They also laid the foundation stone of the Bhutan Institute of Medical Sciences and initiated an e-governance and IT project in Bhutan.

Prime Minister’s visit to Canada (G-20 Summit)

The Group of 20 (G-20)

The leaders at the Toronto G-20 Summit on 26-27 June 2010 discussed global economic situation, including the crisis in Euro-zone, financial sector regulatory reforms, reform of international financial institutions, climate change finance, etc. The Summit adopted the Toronto Summit Declaration.

Prime Minister exchanged views with his Canadian counterpart on the sidelines of the G-20 summit. Their discussions focused on bilateral, regional & global issues of mutual concern and following Agreement/MoUs were signed:

- (i) Agreement on Cooperation in Civil Nuclear Energy;**
- (ii) MoUs on
 - (a) Mining & Earth Sciences**
 - (b) Higher Education; and**
 - (c) Cultural cooperation.****

Visit of External Affairs Minister to China

During his visit to China, External Affairs Minister inaugurated the Festival of India. The two countries also signed an agreement on establishment of a Direct Secure Telephone Link between the Prime Minister of India and Premier of China.

Visit of External Affairs Minister to Bhutan for SAARC Summit

External Affairs Minister visited Thimphu to attend the 32nd Session of SAARC Council of Ministers meeting on April 27 preceding the 16th SAARC Summit in Thimphu (April 28-29), which considered reports pertaining to Environment and Climate Change, Health, Education, Science & Technology, Finance, Poverty Alleviation, Transport etc. and reviewed progress of the implementation of decisions taken as well as issues considered at the Fifteenth SAARC Summit (Colombo, 2-3 August 2008) and the Thirty-first Session of the Council of Ministers (Colombo, 27-28 February 2009).

Visit of External Affairs Minister to Kazakhstan

Apart from discussing cooperation in civil nuclear and hydrocarbon areas, the two sides also held discussion to finalize the road-map for further strengthening bilateral relations.

An Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Culture, Art, Mass Media and Sport was signed.

Visit of External Affairs Minister to Iran for G-15 Ministerial Meeting

Focus of discussions at the 14th G-15 Summit, held in Tehran in May 2010, was South-South cooperation, international trade, global economic and financial situation, food and energy security, climate change, etc. A Joint Communiqué was issued at the end of the Summit.

During his interactions with the Iranian dignitaries, EAM exchanged views on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest.

Visit of External Affairs Minister to the US for India-US Strategic Dialogue

External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna and US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton reiterated the shared vision of India and the USA of a world free of nuclear weapons and their commitment to address the challenge posed by global nuclear proliferation. US Secretary of State Clinton welcomed India's announcement of establishing a Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership. Both sides committed to work together to achieve an early start of negotiations on a multilateral, non-discriminatory and internationally and effectively verifiable Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty at the Conference on Disarmament.

Visit of External Affairs Minister to Uzbekistan to attend SCO Summit

India's participation in the SCO summit underlines India's keen interest in this important regional body. In his address, EAM emphasized the importance India attached to the SCO, especially in promoting stability and economic development and combating terrorism in the region, and expressed India's readiness to enhance its engagement with the SCO.

Visit of External Affairs Minister to Seoul

External Affairs Minister co-chaired the bilateral Joint Commission meeting in which status of India-ROK bilateral relations as well as implementation of the decisions taken by the two sides during the State Visit to India of the President of the Republic of Korea in January 2010 were reviewed. EAM's visit has bolstered the Strategic Partnership between India and the ROK and has paved the way for further diversification of the areas of bilateral cooperation.

The following documents were signed during the visit:

- (i) MoU between the Ministry of Micro, Small and medium Enterprises of India and the Small and Medium Business Administration of the ROK on Cooperation in the field of Small and Medium Enterprises;**
- (ii) MoU for Cooperation between ICCR and Korea Foundation; and**
- (iii) MoU for Cooperation between Indian Council for World Affairs (ICWA) and the Institute for Foreign Affairs and National Security (IFANS) of the ROK.**

Visit of Minister of External Affairs to Mauritius

EAM's discussions with Mauritius covered the entire spectrum of India-Mauritius bilateral cooperation as well as regional and international issues of mutual interest and concern. The views of the two sides on all these subjects were identical.

The following documents were signed during the visit:

- (i) Agreement on Early Warning of Coastal Hazards between Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) and The Meteorological Services, Mauritius;**
- (ii) Programme of Cultural Cooperation between India and Mauritius for 2010-2013;**
- (iii) Agreement between Standardisation, Testing and Quality Control Directorate (STQC), Department of Information Technology, Government of India and the National Computer Board, Government of Mauritius;**
- (iv) Agreement between Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Mahatma Gandhi Institute (MGI), Mauritius on the establishment of a Visiting Chair of Sanskrit and Indian Philosophy at MGI.**

(v) Memorandum of Understanding on the supply of an Offshore Patrol Vessel;

Visit of External Affairs Minister to Mozambique

The EAM visit took place after more than a decade. His visit is expected to further strengthen the close bilateral relations between the two countries and accelerate the ongoing programme of cooperation.

An agreement was signed between EXIM Bank of India and the Mozambican Finance Ministry providing for a US\$25 million Line of Credit (LOC) given by the Government of India for rural electrification projects in Cabo Delgado, Niassa and Manica provinces of Mozambique.

Visit of EAM to Pakistan

Pursuant to the mandate given by Prime Minister of India and Pakistan's Prime Minister Gilani after their meeting at Thimphu in April 2010, External Affairs Minister (EAM) visited Islamabad on July 15 and held discussions with Pakistan Foreign Minister Qureshi. The talks were held in a cordial and frank manner. In the delegation level talks both sides articulated known positions on issues like terrorism, J&K, water, Siachen and Sir Creek apart from discussions on trade and Commerce, humanitarian issues and promoting people-to-people contacts in order to restore trust and build confidence in our relationship. In addition, EAM had meetings with President Zardari and Prime Minister Gilani on July 16, both of whom appeared keen to carry forward the normalization process. Foreign Minister Qureshi accepted EAM's invitation to visit Delhi at a suitable date to be decided through diplomatic channels.

Visit of External Affairs Minister to Afghanistan

External Affairs Minister led the Indian delegation to the International Ministerial Conference in Kabul on July 20, 2010. During the visit, he also called on President Karzai and met National Security Advisor Rangin Dadfar Spanta and Foreign Minister Zalmay Rassoul. In addition, EAM had meetings with US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and UK Foreign Secretary William Hague.
