

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.304
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.11.2010**

**SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
SHRI P. LINGAM:
SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:
DR. M. THAMBIDURAI:
SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN:
SHRI P. VISWANATHAN:
SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:
SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU:**

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 July to October 2010 are at ANNEXURE – I.

(c) Details of visits of Hon'ble Prime Minister and Hon'ble External Affairs Minister from July to October 2010 are at ANNEXURE – II.

(b), (d) & (e) Details are at ANNEXURE – III.

ANNEXURE-I as referred to in reply of Part (a) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.304 regarding “Visit of Dignitaries” for answer on 10-11-2010.

INCOMING VISITS July – October 2010		
S.No	Dignitary	Dates
1.	H.E. Dr. Seyed Shamseddin Hosseini, Minister for Economic Affairs & Finance of the Islamic Republic of Iran (Official)	7-9 July, 2010
2.	H.E. Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman State Peace & Development Council, Union of Myanmar (State)	25-29 July, 2010
3.	Rt. Hon. David Cameron MP, Prime Minister of United Kingdom (State)	27-29 July, 2010
4.	H.E. Mr. George Yeo, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore (official)	31 July – 4 August, 2010
5.	H.E. Mrs Patricia Espinosa Cantellano, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mexico	August 15-17, 2010
6.	H.E. Dr. Mamadou Tangara, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Gambia	August 16-22, 2010
7.	H.E. Mr. Katsuya Okada, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan	August 21-22, 2010
8.	H.E. Dr. Zalmay Rassoul, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan	August 24-26, 2010
9.	H.E. Mrs Micheline Calmy-Rey, Federal Councillor, Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland	August 29-31, 2010
10.	H E Mr. Donald Tusk, Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland (State visit)	6 – 8 September, 2010
11.	H. E. Mr. Armando Emilio Guebuza, President of the Republic of Mozambique (State visit)	29 September – 4 October, 2010
12.	H.E. Guido Westerwelle, Foreign Minister of Germany	17 – 19 October, 2010
13.	H E Yusuf Bin Alawi Bin Abdullah, Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs of Sultanate of Oman	20 – 22 October, 2010
14.	His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, King of Bhutan	20 – 29 October, 2010
15.	H.E. Lyonchhen Jigmi Y Thinley, Prime Minister of Bhutan	30 Oct – 3 Nov, 2010

ANNEXURE-II as referred to in reply of Part (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.304 regarding “Visit of Dignitaries” for answer on 10-11-2010.

Outgoing Visits July – October 2010		
Sl.No.	Dignitary	Dates
1	Minister of External Affairs to Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles	July 2010
2	Minister of External Affairs to Islamic Republic of Pakistan	14-16 July, 2010
3	Minister of External Affairs to Afghanistan	19-20 July, 2010
5	Minister of External Affairs to New York, USA	21 Sep- 2 Oct, 2010
7	Prime Minister of India to Japan, Malaysia and Vietnam	24 - 30 October, 2010
8	Minister of External Affairs to Japan	24 – 26 October, 2010
9	Minister of External Affairs to Singapore	26 – 28 October, 2010

ANNEXURE-III as referred to in reply Part (b), (d) & (e) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.304 regarding “Visit of Dignitaries” for answer on 10-11-2010.

(A) **INCOMING VISITS**

Iran: The 16th Session of the India-Iran Joint Commission was held in New Delhi on July 8-9, 2010. The meeting of the Joint Commission provided an opportunity to review bilateral economic and cultural cooperation.

The following MoUs/Agreements were signed during the Joint Commission Meeting:

1. Air Services Agreement
2. Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons
3. MoU on Cooperation in New & Renewable Energy
4. MoU on Cooperation in Small Scale Industry between National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) and Iranian Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organisation (ISIPO)
5. Programme of Cooperation on Science & Technology
6. MoU on Cooperation between Central Pulp and Paper Research Institute of India (CPPRI) and Gorgan University of Agricultural Science and Natural Resources (GUASNR)

Myanmar: Both sides agreed to further strengthen and broaden the multi dimensional relationship, including in the areas of security, trade and economic engagement, connectivity, infrastructure development, oil and natural gas, agriculture, railways, power, culture, etc.

The following agreements/MoU were signed:

1. Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters;
2. MoU on Information Cooperation;
3. Agreement on the cooperation in the fields of Science and Technology;
4. MoU on small developmental projects.
5. MoU on conservation and restoration of Ananda Temple in Bagan;
6. Agreement for Line of Credit of US\$ 60 million for Railway Infrastructure Project

As a close and friendly neighbour, India has been cooperating with Myanmar on a range of issues. India is also assisting Myanmar in its development especially in the area of infrastructure (roads and railways), connectivity, capacity building, vocational training, IT and telecommunication. Our security cooperation has also been strengthened.

United Kingdom: During the visit of the Prime Minister of UK, wide ranging discussions were held not only at the Prime-Ministerial level, but also with various Ministers on relevant bilateral, regional and multi-lateral issues of mutual interest. The two sides agreed on

- Establishment of a new India-UK CEOs Forum to help increase trade and investment
- Establishment of an India-UK Infrastructure Group, led by the two Governments to promote investment in infrastructure in India
- Launching a new phase of the jointly funded UK-India Education and Research Initiative from 2011 to 2015.
- Boosting dialogue and exchanges between our two national Parliaments.

An India-UK Memorandum of Understanding on Cultural Co-operation was signed. Discussions were held on a Memorandum of Understanding between Government of India and UK Trade and Investment to enhance investment in the Roads sector.

Further, the following areas were identified for future cooperation:

- (a) Trade, Investment and Energy
- (b) Education, Science and research
- (c) Defence and Security
- (d) Dialogue and Exchanges between our Parliaments

Singapore: Foreign Minister of Singapore visited India on a working visit to participate in the 6th Meeting of the Nalanda Mentor Group. No agreement/MoU was signed during the visit.

Mexico: During the visit of Foreign Minister of Mexico, bilateral relations were reviewed and views on regional and global issues were exchanged. No agreement/MoU was signed during the visit.

Costa Rica: Foreign Minister of Costa Rica visited India for the inauguration of the Embassy of Costa Rica in New Delhi. During the dialogue, both sides reviewed bilateral relations and covered multilateral issues of mutual concern and exchanged views on regional developments. No agreement/MoU was signed during the visit.

Gambia: Deliberations with the Gambian side included all facets of bilateral relations as well as international issues of mutual interest.

A Protocol for Consultations between the Ministry of External Affairs of India and Ministry of Foreign Affairs International Cooperation and Gambians Abroad, of the Republic of Gambia, was signed between the two countries. The signing of the Protocol for Consultations between the two sides has led to establishment of an institutional mechanism for regular periodic consultations between the two sides.

A grant of US\$ 500,000 (US\$0.5 million) to be utilized in the education and health sectors was also announced.

India offered to set up one 'Hole-in-the-Wall (HiWel) work station in Gambia.

Japan: Foreign Minister of Japan visited India for the India-Japan Strategic Dialogue. Both sides exchanged ideas on how to further strengthen the India-Japan Strategic & Global Partnership, in political, economic, security and people-to-people relations. They also exchanged views on regional and global issues of common interest. No agreement/MoU was signed during the visit.

Afghanistan: The visit of Foreign Minister of Afghanistan was part of the regular high-level interaction between the two sides, and reflected the importance given by both India and Afghanistan to their strategic and developmental partnership. The two sides agreed that terrorism was the main threat undermining peace and stability in the region and reiterated their resolve to effectively combating and defeating it. The two sides emphasized the strategic partnership between India and Afghanistan, based on symbiotic historical and cultural ties, and common interests and values. India conveyed its desire to see a strong, stable, peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan and reiterated its commitment to assisting Afghanistan in its development efforts in accordance with the wishes and priorities of the people of Afghanistan. No agreement/MoU was signed during the visit.

Switzerland: Talks covered a range of bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest.

A Protocol Amending the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement with Switzerland was signed during this visit.

The Protocol Amending the double Taxation Avoidance Agreement is expected to stimulate the flow of investment, technology and personnel from India to Swiss Confederation and vice-versa and provide tax stability.

Poland: Poland reiterated its support for India's permanent membership of the UN Security Council. The Two sides discussed deepening their engagement in trade and investment and agreed to make concerted efforts to double the value of bilateral trade in the next five years. The two sides also agreed to expand cooperation in the field of clean coal technology.

The two sides also signed a Cultural Exchange Programme for the years 2010-13 which would promote bilateral cultural links between the two countries.

The visit would strengthen traditionally close India-Poland relations, including in the fields of trade, investment, defence and culture.

Mozambique: During the visit of the President of Mozambique, the two sides discussed a wide range of subjects of bilateral interest. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the state of bilateral relations, and agreed to work to raise the relationship to a strategic partnership. The following MOUs/agreements were signed during the visit :

- (i) MOU on Cooperation in the field of Mineral Resources;
- (ii) Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement; and
- (iii) MOU on Cooperation in the field of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

Bhutan: During the visit of Bhutanese dignitaries, discussions were held on a wide range of issues of shared interest and areas of cooperation. No bilateral agreements/MoUs/treaties were signed during these visits.

India-Bhutan bilateral relations are an example of good neighbourly relations. These are nurtured with regular high level interactions between the two countries. Government of India is committed to further enhancing these historically close relations with Bhutan through mutually beneficial economic engagement.

Germany: The discussions of German Foreign Minister with the Indian leadership focused on wide –ranging bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of mutual concern.

During the visit a Memorandum of Understanding between Indian Council for Cultural Relations and German Federal Foreign Office was signed for organizing and conducting the reciprocal Year of Germany in India in 2011-12 and Days of India in Germany in 2012-13. Year of Germany in India in 2011-12 and Days of India in Germany in 2012-13 will be conducted with the aim of further strengthening the strategic partnership and cooperation between the two countries, as well as to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Germany and India.

The two Years would also serve to enhance mutual understanding and traditional friendship between their peoples. With their programmes of events, both sides intend to showcase the entire spectrum of their cooperation in the spheres of politics, business, culture, education, science and research.

Oman: The two sides held talks covering a wide range of bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest. The visit was part of the regular high-level exchanges between the two countries which have been adding vigour and dynamism to our relations. No agreement/MoU was signed during the visit.

Commonwealth Games: President of Nauru, Prince of Wales, President of the Republic of Maldives, Governor General of New Zealand, President of Sri Lanka and Prince Albert of Monaco visited India to attend the XIX Commonwealth Games in Delhi.

(B) **OUTGOING VISITS**

Visit of External Affairs Minister to Mauritius: Wide ranging discussions were held with the Mauritius leadership which covered the entire canvass of bilateral cooperation between India and Mauritius and touched upon regional and international issues of mutual interest and concern. The visit provided yet another opportunity for further consolidation and development of the traditional, time-tested and historical relations between India and Mauritius.

The following documents were signed during the visit:

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding on supply of an Offshore Patrol Vessel;
- (ii) Agreement on Early Warning of Coastal Hazards between Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) and The Meteorological Services, Mauritius;
- (iii) Programme of Cultural Cooperation between India and Mauritius for 2010-2013;
- (iv) Agreement between Standardisation, Testing and Quality Control Directorate (STQC), Department of Information Technology, Government of India and the National Computer Board, Government of Mauritius;
- (v) 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.

Visit of External Affairs Minister to Mozambique: During the visit, issues of bilateral, regional and international interest were discussed.

The following documents were signed/announced during the visit:

- (i) 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.
- (ii) Government of India's decision to provide US\$40 million for setting up of a training institute for coal in Mozambique, and a grant of US\$5 million was also announced for project based proposals in health and education sectors.

Visit of External Affairs Minister to Seychelles: During the visit, the two sides discussed issues of bilateral cooperation and reviewed follow up of the decisions announced during the visit of Seychelles President's State Visit to India in June 2010. No agreement/MoU was signed during the visit.

Visit of External Affairs Minister to Pakistan: The two Ministers reviewed the current state of bilateral relations and discussed steps to promote trust and confidence. As part of a step-by-step, graduated and forward looking approach to expanding dialogue to cover all issues of mutual interest and concern, India conveyed its willingness to have further interaction on pressing humanitarian issues, particularly early release and repatriation of prisoners and fishermen in jails in both countries; promotion of trade and commerce; streamlining and

strengthening cross-Line of Control Confidence Building Measures for the welfare of the people of Jammu and Kashmir; and greater people-to-people contacts/friendly exchanges.

EAM stated that the fulfillment, in letter and spirit, of the solemn commitment given by the leaders of Pakistan, at the highest level, of not allowing territory under Pakistan's control to be used for any terrorist activity directed against India, would be the biggest confidence building measure. In addition, EAM mentioned that any further terrorist attack on India emanating from Pakistani soil would cause immense harm to the normalization process. EAM called for credible and firm action against terrorists groups and their leaders, like the Jamaat-ud-Daawa and Hafiz Saeed, who continue to incite violence against India. No agreement/MoU was signed during the visit.

Visit of External Affairs Minister to Afghanistan: External Affairs Minister visited Afghanistan to attend the Kabul International Conference on Afghanistan held on July 20, 2010, to deliberate and endorse an Afghan Government-led plan for improved development, governance, and stability. No agreement/MoU was signed during the visit.

Visit of External Affairs Minister to New York, USA: External Affairs Minister (EAM) led the Indian delegation to New York from 21 to 30 September to attend the General Debate of the 65th session of the UN General Assembly.

Besides making a statement to the UN General Assembly on 29 September, EAM attended several important plurilateral and multilateral meetings including the Millennium Development Goals Summit, the Mauritius Strategy for implementation on small island developing states and on revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament, the High Level meeting on Sudan, Ministerial meetings of the G4, IBSA, NAM, SAARC, G15, Commonwealth, among others.

Visit of Prime Minister to Japan: Prime Minister visited Tokyo for the Annual Summit. PM's visit and his meetings with Japanese leaders reaffirmed our 'Strategic and Global Partnership' with Japan. The two Prime Ministers announced the conclusion of negotiations on India-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. The following documents were signed during the visit:

- (a) Joint Statement: Vision for India-Japan Strategic and Global Partnership in the Next Decade
- (b) Joint Declaration between the Leaders of India and Japan on the Conclusion of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement
- (c) Memorandum on Simplifying Visa Procedures between India and Japan

The first two documents reflect the political understandings reached during PM's visit. The Memorandum on Simplifying Visa Procedures intends to make it easier for Indian and Japanese citizens to travel to each other's country for tourism, business, employment and educational purposes.

Visit of Prime Minister to Malaysia: Prime Minister had detailed discussions with his counterpart on all facets of bilateral relations, as well as regional and global issues of mutual interest. The two Prime Ministers agreed to establish a strategic partnership to expand and deepen India-Malaysia bilateral relations. The following six MoUs/Agreement were signed during the visit

- Agreement towards Implementing Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)

- MOU for cooperation in the field of Tourism
- MoU on Traditional Systems of Medicine
- MOU for Cooperation in the field of IT & Services
- Cultural Exchange Programme for 2010-13
- Agreement between CSIR of India and UNIK of Malaysia on Research and Development Collaboration

The MoUs will strengthen, promote and develop cooperation with Malaysia.

Visit of Prime Minister to Vietnam: Prime Minister visited Hanoi, Vietnam to lead the Indian delegation to the 8th India-ASEAN Summit and 5th East Asia Summit.

The 8th India-ASEAN Summit focused on Initiative for ASEAN Integration and the ASEAN Connectivity to narrow the development gap within ASEAN, transportation networks between ASEAN and South Asia through the construction of the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway, ICT connectivity, business and tourism facilitation, aviation cooperation, people-to-people exchange, etc.

Discussions at the 5th East-Asia Summit focused on five priority areas – finance, education, energy, disaster management and avian flu prevention. Issues such as intra-ASEAN connectivity, regional cooperation on energy, climate change, Doha Round were also touched upon. The issues such as maintaining peace and stability on the Korean peninsula, elections in Myanmar, trafficking in people and related trans-national crime also figured at the Summit.

No MoUs/treaties were signed in the context of 8th India-ASEAN Summit and 5th East Asia Summit.

Visit of External Affairs Minister to Singapore: During his visit EAM had bilateral discussions with his counterpart. No Agreement/MoU was signed during the visit.
