

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2098**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.05.2016

**TALKS WITH HEADS OF VARIOUS COUNTRIES**

2098. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Prime Minister held talks with country heads of various countries during the current year in Delhi; and
- (b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

- (a) Yes. Prime Minister had talks with various country Heads in Delhi during current year.
- (b) Details are as follows:

**France:**

H.E. Mr Francois Hollande, President of France visited India on 24-26 January 2016 as the Chief Guest on our 67<sup>th</sup> Republic Day. Hon'ble Prime Minister met President Hollande and held bilateral talks. This was fifth meeting between Prime Minister Modi and President Hollande since the new Government took over in May 2014. Both the Leaders had extensive bilateral discussions focusing on strengthening the bilateral Strategic Partnership encompassing various spheres such as defence, civil nuclear, space, countering the threat of terrorism, maritime security, trade & investment cooperation, sustainable urban development & Smart Cities, renewable energy, education, Science & Technology and cultural cooperation. The two Leaders also had discussion on cooperation in multilateral such as United Nations Security Council reforms, India's accession in Nuclear Suppliers Group and Missile Technology Control Regime and other regional & international issues of mutual interest. The two Leaders addressed the India-France CEO Forum and attended the India-France Business Summit in Chandigarh on 24 January 2016, focusing on intensification of partnerships between businesses of two communities furthering trade & investment linkages. The visit underscored the strengthening of the traditional strategic tripod of the relationship i.e. defence, civil nuclear and space; with conclusion of a MOU on purchase of Rafale fighter jets confirming finalization of the Inter-governmental Agreement, revised MOU between EDF and NPCIL increasing number of reactors from 2 to 6 in Jaitapur nuclear power project with aim to start the

work by early 2017 and finalization of 3 new agreements in Space. The visit also showcased how the strategic partnership was being updated to respond to upcoming challenges through enhanced collaboration in areas such as; maritime security, where both sides held the Inaugural Dialogue in January 2016; Counter-terrorism, where India & France issued a separate joint statement; cooperation in renewable energy with launch of interim Secretariat of International Solar Alliance and France committing Euros 300 million to future ISA projects. France has emerged as a key partner in our flagship development initiatives, especially in sectors like Urban Development, Renewable Energy, Railways and “Make in India” in defence. The visit also saw a categorical reaffirmation of French support for India’s membership of an expanded UNSC and India’s accession into NSG and MTCR in 2016 itself. With the signing of over 30 Agreements, the visit was high on substantive content and rich in ceremonial symbolism and optics.

### **Afghanistan:**

Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, Chief Executive of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan visited India from 31 January - 4 February, 2016. During this visit, Dr. Abdullah met Prime Minister in Delhi on 1 February 2016 and held discussions on bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest including the security situation and peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan.

### **United Arab Emirates:**

Prime Minister had talks with the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan during his visit to Delhi from 10-13 February 2016; Various matters of mutual interest, including of bilateral, regional and multilateral importance were discussed. The two sides issued a joint statement on 12 February which is reflective of the outcomes of the visit and identified areas of bilateral cooperation. A number of MoUs were signed during the visit. These were MoU on Technical Cooperation in Cyber Space and Combating Cyber Crime; MoU for Establishing a Framework for Facilitating the Participation of UAE institutional investors in Infrastructure Investment in India; MoU between ISRO and United Arab Space Agency on cooperation in the exploration and uses of outer space for peaceful purposes; MoU between Dubai Economic Council and EXIM Bank; MoU on General Framework Agreement on Renewable Energy Cooperation; MoU between the respective Insurance Regulatory Authorities and Letter of Intent for skill development and recognition of qualification.

### **Finland:**

Prime Minister had talks with Mr. Juha Sipila, Prime Minister of the Republic of Finland during his visit in Mumbai from 12-15 February 2016 (during participation in Make in India Week) in Mumbai. The talks with the Prime Minister included bilateral and international issues. However, the main emphasis was on bilateral economic cooperation. After the visit, several Finnish companies declared their plans to invest in India which included Fortum’s plan to invest in Solar Power Sector, Konecranes’ plan to expand its plant capacity in Pune and Salcomp’s plan to set up two factories to manufacture mobile phone chargers in India.

### **Sweden:**

Prime Minister had talks with Mr. Stefan Lofven, Prime Minister of Sweden during his visit to Mumbai from 13-14 February 2016 (during participation in Make in India Week) in Mumbai. The following decisions were taken during the talks: (i) to create a new Joint Working Group on digital technologies and economy; (ii) to exchange Special Envoys to discuss cooperation in preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism; (iii) to hold at an early date the second round of bilateral consultations on cyber issues; and (iv) to convene at an early date the next round of Foreign Office Consultations. In his letter to Prime Minister dated 08 March 2016 the Swedish Prime Minister confirmed Sweden's support for India as a permanent member in an enlarged Security Council. He also confirmed Sweden's support for an Indian application to the Nuclear Suppliers' Group.

### **Nepal:**

The Prime Minister of Nepal Mr. K P Sharma Oli paid a state visit to India from 19-24 February 2016. Wide ranging talks on diverse aspect of the bilateral relations including development assistance, trade and commercial cooperation and mutual security issues as well as recent political development of mutual interest were held during the visit.

### **Maldives:**

Prime Minister held talks with the President of Maldives Abdualla Yameen Abdul Gayoom during the latter's official visit to New Delhi on April 10-11, 2016. Discussions covered further strengthening of the India-Maldives relationship as well as a review of regional issues of mutual concern. Six Agreements/MoUs were signed. They are: (i) Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation of Income derived from International Air Transport; (ii) Agreement on Exchange of Information with respect to Taxes; (iii) Agreement on Orbit Frequency Coordination of "South Asia Satellite" proposed at 48 degree; (iv) MoU on cooperation in the area of conservation and restoration of ancient mosques and joint research and exploratory surveys in Maldives; (v) MoU on cooperation in the field of Tourism; and (vi) Action Plan for Defence Cooperation.

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