

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1835
ANSWERED ON- 16/03/2023

SUPPORT TO PALESTINE

1835. PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

- (a) the details and the number of times India has extended support to Palestine since 2018;
- (b) the details of events where India has recognized the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to establish an independent Palestinian State since 2018;
- (c) the details of events where India has condemned the bombing and firing in Palestine by Israeli forces since 2018; and
- (d) the details of help and support provided to Palestine for capacity building and infrastructure development since 2018?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN)

(a & d) India continues to extend political, diplomatic and developmental support to the State of Palestine by various means over the years. There has been exchange of visits from both sides at the highest level. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid a stand-alone visit to Palestine in February 2018, the first ever visit of Indian PM to Palestine. India has supported / endorsed Palestine in various international and multilateral forums from time to time, including at meetings of United Nations and its various agencies, etc.

India extends financial and developmental support for Palestinian nation building through capacity building, project assistance and budgetary support. India provides 150 slots for training in diverse sectors under ITEC programme and 50 ICCR scholarships to Palestine every year. A special course for training of 15 Diplomats of Palestine was conducted in India in September 2019.

A number of MoUs were signed during the visit of Prime Minister of India to Palestine in February 2018, including for building a Super-specialty hospital (USD 29 million), a Women Empowerment Project (USD 5 million), supply of equipment for the National Printing Press of Palestine (USD 5 million), building of Schools (USD 2.35 million). India announced 4 Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) in Palestine in 2020, including Rehabilitation of Yasser Arafat

Square in Ramallah, Integration of Technology into Education in 8 Schools in Palestine, Setting up of a Nursery in Beitunia Municipality; and Development of Children Park in Aqraba Municipality. Most of these projects have been completed or at advanced stage of completion.

In addition, India supports Palestinian refugees through its contribution to the United Nations Relief & Works Agency for the Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). In 2018, India substantially enhanced its contribution to UNRWA from USD 1.25 million to USD 5 million annually. India has contributed a total of USD 25 million to the agency since 2018.

(b) India is a founder member of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (CEIRPP) of the United Nations which was founded in 1975. India has remained unwavering in its support to inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to establish an independent Palestinian State. This has manifested in our statements at multilateral forums and letters issued by Prime Minister on International Day of solidarity with Palestinian people every year.

(c) India has regularly expressed concerns over acts of violence, loss of life and destruction during the escalation between Israel and Palestine. India has consistently supported immediate de-escalation of the situation and urged the concerned parties to exercise restraint and resume dialogue. India reiterated the same in the aftermath of escalation between Israel and Palestine in May 2021 and again in August 2022.
