

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-67
ANSWERED ON- 02.02.2023

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INDIA AND SRI LANKA

67. DR. K. LAXMAN

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Government helped Sri Lanka a lot during its economic crisis;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether it a fact that, despite giving generous aid on all fronts and ancient bond with India, Sri Lanka is said to be leaning towards China on some issues?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN)

(a to c) India continues to assist Sri Lanka in its economic development as also support it in overcoming its economic challenges, under India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy. In January 2022, India extended a US\$ 400 million currency swap to Sri Lanka under the SAARC Framework and deferred successive Asian Clearing Union (A.C.U.) settlements of around US\$ 2 billion. A Line of Credit of US\$ 500 million was extended to Sri Lanka for importing fuel from India. In addition, India has extended a credit facility of US\$ 1 billion for the procurement of food, medicines and other essential items from India. Humanitarian assistance was also provided to Sri Lanka by gifting essential medicines worth about INR 6 crores, 15,000 litres of kerosene oil and US \$ 55 million LoC for procurement of Urea fertilizer. Government of Tamil Nadu has contributed rice, milk powder and medicines worth US\$ 16 million, as part of the larger Indian assistance effort.

India's relations with other countries stand on their own footing and are independent of the relations of those countries with third countries. However, Government carefully monitors any developments having a bearing on India's security and economic interests, and takes all necessary measures to safeguard them.
