

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-701
ANSWERED ON- 08/02/2024

BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH THE NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

701. SHRI SANJAY RAUT

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

- (a) the current bilateral relations with the neighboring countries;
- (b) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to improve bilateral relations with the neighboring countries during the last five years; and
- (c) the details of bilateral agreements done in various field with the neighboring countries during the last three years?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(DR. RAJKUMAR RANJAN SINGH)

(a to c) India's people-centric 'Neighbourhood First policy' continues to guide its approach towards the management of relations with countries in its immediate neighbourhood, that is, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The Neighbourhood First policy, inter alia, is aimed at enhancing physical, digital and people to people connectivity across the region, as well as augmenting trade and commerce. This policy is an institutional priority for all the relevant arms of the Government. A number of initiatives continue to be implemented to enhance our bilateral ties with our neighbouring countries.

In the last three years, India has signed a number of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with many of our neighbouring countries, envisaging bilateral cooperation in a wide range of domains including education, health and medical research, agriculture, trade, communication, youth and sports affairs, renewable energy, capacity building in various fields, cyber security and cultural exchanges, among others.
