

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2782
ANSWERED ON- 19/12/2024

CONFLICT IN GAZA REGION

2782. SHRI M. SHANMUGAM

SHRI VAIKO

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

- (a) whether Government is concerned over the continuing conflict in Gaza region;
- (b) if so, the diplomatic efforts along with other major countries made to bring early ceasefire and to stop further escalation in the region; and
- (c) the stand taken by India in the United Nations forums for supporting the Palestinian cause and the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a to c) India remains concerned at the evolving situation in West Asia and the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Government have emphasized the need for safe, timely and sustained delivery of humanitarian assistance to the people of Palestine. Since the beginning of the conflict, India has provided around 70 MT of humanitarian aid, including 16.5 MT of medicines and medical supplies in two tranches. It has also released \$ 5 million last year and disbursed another \$ 5 million this year to United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees in Near East (UNRWA). Recently, 65 tonnes of medicines were also sent to UNRWA and Palestine Ministry of Health in October and November 2024.

The Prime Minister and the Minister of External Affairs have spoken to several leaders in the region and across the globe, including President, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Israel and President and Foreign Minister of Palestine. India's position has been reiterated in various bilateral and multilateral forums such as UN, BRICS, NAM, Voice of Global South, etc. Prime Minister met the Palestine President on the sidelines of Summit of the Future in New York on 22 September 2024 and called for ceasefire, release of hostages and return to path of dialogue and diplomacy.

India's policy towards Palestine has been long standing and includes support for a negotiated two State solution, and the establishment of a sovereign, independent and viable State of Palestine within secure and recognized borders, living side by side in peace with Israel. India also supports Palestine's membership of the UN.
