

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1050
ANSWERED ON- 13.02.2025

ADDRESSING GLOBAL INSULARITY AND STRENGTHENING MULTILATERALISM

1050. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA

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

- (a) the manner in which Government is addressing the trend of insular policies and protectionism adopted by major economies, including the U.S. and its impact on global trade and co-operation;
- (b) the measures Government is taking to counter the potential weakening of multilateral institutions like the United Nations and the World Trade Organization; and
- (c) Government's strategy to strengthen regional partnerships, such as through SAARC or BIMSTEC, in light of the growing focus on self-reliance and nationalist policies globally?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI PABITRA MARGHERITA)

(a) As one of the fastest growing large economies, India is taking active steps to encourage a steady growth in our exports and also become an integral part of the global value chain. India is in constant dialogues with all the major economies for promotion of trade and investment. With the United States, India shares a Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership that spans across all domains of bilateral cooperation, including trade and economic engagement. Government of India remains engaged with the US to address all issues pertaining to trade through established bilateral mechanisms in a constructive manner. The India-United States Trade Policy Forum (TPF) serves as a principal platform towards this objective.

(b) India has been consistently advocating and working towards a reformed multilateral framework in the UN, including expansion of permanent and non-permanent categories of membership of the UN Security Council. 'New Orientation for a Reformed Multilateral System (NORMS)' was one of the key priorities of India's tenure as non-permanent member of the UNSC in 2021-22. The call for urgent reform of governance structures of multilateral bodies has been one of India's main priorities at high-level bilateral and multilateral engagements.

India supports and advocates a transparent, non-discriminatory, and inclusive rules-based multilateral trading system. India argues to strengthen the multilateral character of WTO for an integrated, more viable and durable multilateral trading system that particularly delivers on the aspiration of the developing countries to secure a share in the growth in international trade commensurate with the needs of their economic development. India works with the other Members of the WTO for greater co-operation and an open trade regime in this regard.

(c) In line with her Neighbourhood First policy and SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) vision, India has been working with partners in the region in promoting regional cooperation. Reaffirming this commitment, India is taking a number of initiatives to strengthen partnerships in the region in enhancing security, facilitating trade and investment, establishing physical, maritime and digital connectivity, collaborating in food, energy and human security, promoting capacity building and skill development, and improving people to people ties.
