

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 555**  
ANSWERED ON 23/07/2026

**ENGAGEMENTS IN WEST ASIA**

555 SHRI CHOWDRY MOHAMMAD RAMZAN

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's recent diplomatic engagements in West Asia are consistent with India's long-standing policy of non-alignment/strategic autonomy and balanced relations with all the countries in the region;
- (b) whether Government has assessed the impact of its policy on India's energy security, regional connectivity and bilateral relations with neighbouring nations; and
- (c) the steps being taken to uphold India's traditional non-aligned foreign policy while protecting its strategic, economic and diplomatic interests in West Asia?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c): All through the current conflict in West Asia, the Government has maintained close contact with the relevant countries and has taken proactive steps to strengthen India's strategic position and safeguard India's national interest. Prime Minister has spoken with Leaders of the region and also other global Leaders, including U.S., Iran, Israel, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman and Jordan. External Affairs Minister has been in close touch with his counterparts in these countries. External Affairs Minister also visited UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain.

Government expressed deep concern over the situation and advocated that de-escalation, dialogue and diplomacy are essential to bring an early end to the conflict. India has opposed attacks on civilians as well as on energy and transport-related infrastructure. We have also made clear that attacks on commercial ships and obstruction of international waterways like the Strait of Hormuz are not acceptable.

India has extensive trade relations with countries in West Asia and the region is an important source for India's crude oil and gas requirement. Nearly one crore Indians live and work in the Gulf countries and a large number of Indians also serve on commercial ships sailing in these waters.

Government is working with a clear strategy to ensure well-being and safety of Indian nationals in the region and protect India's national interest, including energy security and trade flows. India has diversified its energy and fertilizer imports. India now imports energy from 41 countries as against 27 countries earlier. India has also prioritised its strategic petroleum reserve. Through diplomacy, India is continuously working to ensure safe passage for Indian ships and advancing India's strategic interests.

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