

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3154
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.03.2018

TIES WITH AFRICA

3154. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is fact that the Government has failed to transform India's ties with Africa;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of specific steps initiated post- 2015 India-Africa forum Summit to strengthen our relationship with African countries;
- (d) whether any benefits were accrued out of that Summit; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

[GEN. (DR) V.K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) & (b) In the recent past India's engagement with African countries have become more extensive and fruitful. India has declared Africa as a top priority in its foreign and economic policy and has taken several initiatives to further strengthen its economic, commercial, cultural and political relations with African countries.

(c) to (e) Continuing with the inclusive and continental approach that was followed for hosting of IAFS-III, we have significantly enhanced our political engagement with African countries. A total of 18 African countries have been visited at the level of President, Vice President and Prime Minister. There is no country in Africa which has not been visited at least at the Ministerial level during the last 3 years.

In May 2017, we hosted the meeting of African Development Bank on the Indian soil for the first time. We have also had 12 incoming official visits by African HOS/HOGs since IAFS-III. A record 41 HOS/HOGs had participated in IAFS-III.

The scope and reach of India's development assistance has seen considerable expansion in the last few years. We have set up new capacity building institutions and supplemented the on-going training programmes with new PPP initiatives.

Our trade with Africa has multiplied and diversified. India has become the 5th largest investor in Africa with cumulative investments estimated at 54 billion dollars. 34 countries from Africa now enjoy the benefit of DFTP scheme.

To increase people-to-people interaction and mobility, Electronic Tourist Visa facility has been expanded to cover more than 25 countries in Africa.

Our robust and pro-active Africa policy has reinvigorated India-Africa partnership. Tremendous support is received from Africa in multilateral fora including on India's candidature in ICJ, ITLOS, UNESCO Executive Board and IMO. African countries overwhelmingly joined the Indo-French initiative International Solar Alliance (ISA). Over half of the countries that have joined ISA so far are from Africa.
