

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4223
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.03.2018

ASIA AFRICA GROWTH CORRIDOR

4223. SHRIMATI POONAM MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has launched Asia Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC) initiative in collaboration with the Government of Japan and if so, the details thereof including the priority areas identified for development cooperation and the benefits accrued/ likely to accrue to the country;
- (b) whether AAGC seeks synergy between India's Act East Policy and Japan's Expanded Partnership for Quality Infrastructure and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether AAGC's objectives are aligned with the Government's vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific region and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD))

(a) In the Joint Statement issued during the visit of the Prime Minister of Japan to India in September 2017, the two Prime Ministers welcomed the efforts to explore the development of industrial corridors and industrial network for the growth of Asia and Africa, which will benefit various stakeholders in the Indo-Pacific region including Africa.

(b) & (c) In the same Joint Statement, the two Prime Ministers expressed their strong commitment to work together to enhance connectivity in India and with other countries in the Indo-Pacific region including Africa, underlining the importance of all countries ensuring the development and use of connectivity infrastructure in an open, transparent and non-exclusive manner based on international standards and responsible debt financing practices, while ensuring respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, the rule of law, and the environment. They also reaffirmed the importance of "quality infrastructure" which, among others ensures alignment with local economic and development strategies, safety, resilience, social and environmental impacts, and job creation as well as capacity building for the local communities. The two Prime Ministers pledged to reinforce their efforts to align Japan's Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy with India's Act East Policy, including through enhancing maritime security cooperation, improving connectivity in the wider Indo-Pacific region, strengthening cooperation with ASEAN, and promoting discussions between strategists and experts of the two countries.
