

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-441
ANSWERED ON- 21/07/2023

VISITS OF FOREIGN DIGNITARIES

441. SHRI RAVNEET SINGH BITTU
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE
DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE
SHRIMATI MANJULATA MANDAL
SHRI C.N. ANNADURAI
SHRI KULDEEP RAI SHARMA
DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE
SHRI THIRUNAVUKKARASAR SU
SHRI DHANUSH M. KUMAR
SHRI VIJAYAKUMAR ALIAS VIJAY VASANTH
SHRI GNANATHIRAVIAM S
SHRI SELVAM G

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

- (a) the details of visits by foreign dignitaries to India during the last four months till date;
- (b) the details of the issues on which deliberations were held with these foreign dignitaries;
- (c) whether any bilateral agreements were signed with them and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the country-wise details of the foreign visits undertaken by the Prime Minister, External Affairs Minister and other dignitaries during the above mentioned period and amount of funds spent by the Government along with discussion held and the outcome thereof;
- (e) the areas of cooperation identified and the benefits accruing to the country from such bilaterals visits; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to further improve the relations with these countries?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI V MURALEEDHARAN)

(a to c) Information is placed at Annexure-I.

(d) Information is placed at Annexure-II. As per information available, amount of funds spent by the Government of India during the last four months on the foreign tours of the Prime Minister in 2023 is Rs. 1,79,38,717/- and on foreign tours of External Affairs Minister is Rs.1,06,80,810/-. Expenditure on visits of other Cabinet Minister is met from funds of the respective Ministry.

(e & f) High level visits are established means to foster closer relations with foreign countries and promote India's engagements at bilateral, regional and global level. Through such visits India serves its national interest and implements foreign policy objectives. These visits have enhanced understanding of India's perspectives on regional and global issues among foreign partners at the highest level. Understandings reached during these visits have enabled India to strengthen relations with partner countries and put forward India's viewpoint and shape the agenda on global issues such as reformed multilateralism, peace and security, climate change, transnational crime, terrorism, cyber-security, resilient supply chain, energy and food security, etc. while also offering the world India's own unique solutions to partners for addressing global issues. These visits and the understandings/agreements reached therein enable India to strengthen relations with partner countries across a wide range of sectors including science and technology, trade & investment and defence collaboration. Such outcomes also contribute to India's national development agenda to promote economic growth and well being of our people and put forward the interests of developing countries.

VISITS BY FOREIGN DIGNITARIES DURING THE LAST FOUR MONTHS

Sl. No.	Country	Name of Visiting HOG/HOS	Period of Visit	Remarks
1	Italy	Ms. Giorgia Meloni, Prime Minister of Italy	2-3 March 2023	Entire aspects of bilateral relations were reviewed and leaders exchanged views on regional and international issues. Both leaders underscored their firm commitment to democracy, freedom, human rights and rule of law as key values in promoting peace, stability and development. The visit resulted in elevation of India-Italy bilateral ties to "Strategic Partnership". During the visit, Italy joined the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative under Science, Technology and Academics cooperation pillar; Declaration of Intent on Migration and Mobility and MoU between Rabindra Bharti University Kolkata and Italian Consulate General in Kolkata were signed.
2	Australia	H.E. Mr. Anthony Albanese MP, Prime Minister of Australia	08-11 March 2023	Both Prime Ministers reviewed multifaceted bilateral relations including political and strategic, defence and security, trade and investment, education and research, agriculture and water, cyber and space, mining and critical minerals, climate change and renewable energy, and mobility of people. MoU on Cooperation in Sports, Terms of Reference on India-Australia Solar Taskforce and Letter of Intent between Atal Innovation Mission and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation of Australia for Furthering Cooperation in Innovation were signed.
3	Bhutan	His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, His Majesty the King of Bhutan to India	3-5 April 2023	The entire gamut of bilateral cooperation, regional and global issues of mutual interest were discussed. Prime Minister reaffirmed India's deep commitment to unique ties of friendship and cooperation with Bhutan and reiterated continued and full support to the socio-economic development in Bhutan based on the priorities of the Royal Government and as per the vision of His Majesty. A Joint Statement titled "A Framework for Expanded India-Bhutan Partnership" was issued.

4	Cambodia	His Majesty Norodom Sihamoni, King of Cambodia	29-31 May , 2023	India- Cambodia relationship is being strengthened with regular interactions at various levels and India contributing towards capacity building, taking up conservation and restoration of cultural monuments, providing aid and assistance towards socio-economic projects including de-mining, extending Lines of Credit for projects, and defense cooperation.
5	Nepal	Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', Prime Minister of Nepal	31 May –03 June 2023	Prime Ministers of India and Nepal reviewed the entire spectrum of the bilateral relationship covering political, economic, trade, energy, security and developmental cooperation.

VISIT BY PRIME MINISTER DURING THE LAST FOUR MONTHS

Sl. No.	Name of Country	Period of Visit
1	Japan	19-20 May, 2023
2	Papua New Guinea	21-22 May, 2023
3	Australia	22-24 May 2023
4	United States of America	20-23 June, 2023
5	Egypt	24-25 June, 2023
6	France	13-14 July 2023
7	UAE	15 July 2023

VISIT BY EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER DURING THE LAST FOUR MONTHS

Sl. No.	Name of Country	Period of Visit
1	Uganda	10-12 April 2023
2	Ethiopia	13 April 2023
3	Mozambique	13-15 April, 2023
4	Guyana	20-24 April 2023
5	Panama	24-25 April, 2023.
6	Colombia	24-26 April 2023
7	Dominican Republic	27-29 April 2023
8	Bangladesh	11-12 May 2023
9	Sweden	13-15 May, 2023
10	Belgium	15-16 May 2023
11	Australia	22-24 May 2023
12	Brunei	30-31 May 2023
13	South Africa	31 May- 4 June 2023
14	Namibia	4-6 June 2023
15	Tanzania	5-8 July 2023
16	Indonesia	12-15 July 2023
15	Thailand	15-18 July 2023

Annexure- II**VISIT BY OTHER CABINET MINISTERS DURING THE LAST FOUR MONTHS**

Sl. No.	Name of Country	Name of Minister	Period of Visit
1	Maldives	Shri Rajnath Singh, Raksha Mantri	1-3 May 2023
2	Nigeria	Shri Rajnath Singh, Raksha Mantri	28-29 May, 2023
3	Singapore	Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Education Minister	29-31 May, 2023.
4	Brazil	Shri Pralhad Joshi, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs	11-13 June, 2023.
5	Uruguay	Shri Pralhad Joshi, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs	14-17 June 2023
6	Norway	Shri Kiren Rijiju, Minister of Earth Sciences	11-17 June 2023