

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1041
ANSWERED ON– 08/12/2023

FOREIGN POLICY WITH NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

†1041. SHRI NABA KUMAR SARANIA

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

- (a) the details of policy being adopted by the Government to strengthen India's foreign policy with the neighbouring countries;
- (b) the details of MoUs signed by the Government with the neighbouring countries during the last three years;
- (c) whether the foreign policy of India with its neighbouring countries has undergone any change during the said period; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(DR. RAJKUMAR RANJAN SINGH)

(a to d) India's 'Neighbourhood First policy' continues to guide its approach towards the management of relations with countries in its immediate neighbourhood, that is, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The Neighbourhood First policy, inter alia, is aimed at enhancing physical, digital and people to people connectivity across the region, as well as augmenting trade and commerce. This policy has evolved into an institutional priority for all the relevant arms of the Government managing relations and policies with our neighbourhood.

In the last three years, India has signed a number of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with many of our neighbouring countries, envisaging bilateral cooperation in a wide range of domains including education, health and medical research, agriculture, trade, communication, youth and sports affairs, renewable energy, capacity building in various fields, cyber security and cultural exchanges, among others.
