GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2203 TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 15^{TH} DECEMBER, 2023

Meeting of Ministers of Justice of SCO

2203. SHRI L.S. TEJASVI SURYA:

Will the Minister of **LAW AND JUSTICE** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of issues discussed in the 10th SCO Meeting of Ministers of Justice and the outcome thereof;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government in connection with SCO Charter commitments along with the status thereof;
- (c) the details of the representatives and the Ministers of Justice who attended the said meeting along with the details of the previous last nine such SCO meetings; and
- (d) the general outcomes and the achievements of such meetings?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL) *****

(a) The 10th Meeting of Ministers of Justice of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) held on 5th September 2023 discussed issues including matters pertaining to provision of legal services to individuals or legal entities, ensuring rule of law, cooperation in legal and judicial spheres, organising conferences, legal cooperation forums and seminars etc. At the conclusion of the meeting a Joint Statement was adopted by the Member States.

- (b) India is participating in the negotiations on the Reforms of the SCO, including its Charter. As the negotiations are at a nascent stage and are subject to consensus of all the Member States, no firm commitments have been made by India at this stage.
- (c) The representatives of 9 Member States of SCO, namely the Republic of India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the People's Republic of China, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan, participated in the 10th meeting.

Indian was represented by Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Law & Justice, who participated virtually, in the said meeting on 5th September, 2023.

India has been participating in SCO Justice Ministers Conference from the year, 2017. The details of previous SCO meetings, where India had participated, are as under:

- (i) The 5th Session of the Ministers of Justice of SCO Member States was held in Tashkent on 20-21 October, 2017.
- (ii) The 6th Session of the Ministers of Justice of SCO Member States was held in Cholpon-Ata, Kyrgyzstan on 24th August, 2018.
- (iii) The 7th Session of the Ministers of Justice of SCO Member States was hosted by India on 16th October, 2020 through video conferencing.
- (iv) The 8th Session of the Ministers of Justice of SCO Member States was held on 6th August, 2021 through video conferencing.
- (v) The 9th Session of the Ministers of Justice of SCO Member States was held on 9th December, 2022 through video conferencing.
- (d) The meetings are a regular mechanism of cooperation amongst the SCO Members States. The participants work on agreed agenda on various cooperation activities in the field of Law and Justice.