GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION No.469 TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.11.2019

HOWDY MODI

469. SHRI T.N. PRATHAPAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any partnership in the organisation of "Howdy Modi" event that happened in Houston last month and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has incurred any financial expenses for that event and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of total expenses of the Government to attend "Howdy Modi" event;
- (d) whether the Government had any such convention of spending money to organise such events before and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the number of events organised in foreign countries with any type of financial assistance or complete financial support of the Government for the current Prime Minister?

ANSWER THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN]

- (a) to (c) A U.S.-based not-for-profit organization called the Texas India Forum, Inc. organized an event titled, 'Howdy, Modi! Shared Dreams, Bright Futures' in Houston on 22 September 2019. Prime Minister, as part of his visit to the U.S. (21-27 September 2019), participated in the event at the invitation of the organizers and addressed a gathering of members of the Indian-American community and many of their elected representatives. Government of India did not enter into any partnership with the Texas India Forum nor did it provide funding for this event.
- (d) & (e) As a longstanding practice, Heads of Indian Missions abroad regularly arrange official receptions in order to enable representatives of overseas Indian communities to meet and interact with Indian dignitaries, including the President, Vice President and Prime Minister, during their official visits to foreign countries.