

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2985
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.03.2020**

RESEARCH AND INFORMATION SYSTEM

2985. SHRI. BHARATRUHARI MAHTAB:

Will the Minister of State be pleased to state:

- (a) the extent to which the Government of India has taken advantages of Research and Information System (RIS) meant for effective policy dialogue and capacity-building among Developing Countries on global and regional economic issues;
- (b) the number of discussions held between RIS and think-tanks in other countries along with their outcome thereof;
- (c) the role played by the RIS in promotion of regional trade and investment and strengthening India's socio-economic relations with various countries;
- (d) the details of the inputs provided by the RIS to solve issues at International Level along with number of such issues solved during each of the last three years and the current year; and
- (e) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government in this direction?

ANSWER

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

(a) The Research and Information Systems (RIS) works as an autonomous institution under the administrative control of the Ministry of External Affairs. Government makes extensive use of RIS in pursuing its foreign policy goals. Apart from working very closely with the Ministry of External Affairs, RIS also carries out projects and studies for other Ministries/Departments of Government like the Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of AYUSH, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Biotechnology and NITI Aayog.

Some of the other mechanisms by which the government is making use of RIS are as follows:

- Promoting India's interests at Track 1.5 and Track 2 platforms on areas of India's interests with partner countries and partner institutions from other countries and international bodies like WTO, United Nations, World Bank, ADB, AIIB, etc.
- Facilitating international development cooperation for countries of the Global South through its annual international Conference called 'Delhi Process'.
- Providing empirical evidence-based research inputs on issues pertaining to bilateral and regional trade, commerce, finance, connectivity, health, science technology and innovation.
- Strengthening linkages with ASEAN countries through the ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS

- Conducting numerous academic/training/fellowship programmes such as ITEC Capacity building programmes, RIS-EXIM Bank Summer School on 'International Trade Theory and Practices' IBSA Fellowship Programme and BRICS Fellowship Programmes.

(b) to (d) The list of discussions held between RIS and think-tanks in other countries, including a note on the role played by RIS in promoting trade have been provided in the annexure. Further details about outcomes etc are available in RIS annual reports, which have been tabled in Parliament, and are also available on the RIS website for ready reference.

(e) Government values RIS's role. RIS is a unique research institution. It was created at the request of the Nonaligned Movement. It has been mandated to assist the Global South in its efforts to protect and promote core trade and economic interests under India's leadership. RIS research will continue to focus on the global public good with particular reference to access, equity and inclusiveness. Since countries of the Global South, particularly those belonging to Africa, South and South-East Asia and Latin America, look up to India's leadership role in defending their trade and economic interests, Government would continue to extend its full support to RIS and provide all required assistance in expanding its engagements as a credible global research institution.

LIST OF SEMINARS/DISCUSSIONS
2017
Delhi Conference on South-South and Triangular Cooperation
Commonwealth Summit 2018: Evolving Development Strategies
ASEAN-India Connectivity Summit: Powering Digital and Physical Linkages for Asia in the 21st Century
Development of North- East India and India's Act East Policy
Workshop on "Development Finance in South Asia and Emerging Development Experiences."
Strengthening ASEAN-India Partnership
Tenth South Asia Economic Summit
Kolkata Roundtable "ASEAN@50 and <u>ASEAN-India@25</u> "
SDGs and Integral Humanism
National Consultation on Reducing Inequalities
Asia Africa Growth Corridor: The Way Forward
AAGC and the National Development Priorities of Tunisia
Industry Consultation on AAGC
Delhi Dialogue 9 on 'ASEAN-India Relations'
25th anniversary of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations
India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Relations
Implementing Agenda 2030: The Role of Global Partnership
South-South Global Thinkers Initiative
Mid-Term Review of the Foreign Trade Policy (2015-2020)
Workshop on Job Creation in Manufacturing Sector as a Strategy for Sustainable Economic Growth in South Asia
Roundtable on Deepening India-Russia Partnership: Exploring New Vistas
Blue Economy Framework for Sustainable Development and Economic Prosperity
Policy Dialogue on Mekong-Ganga Cooperation "Stronger Connectivity and Enhancing Ties"
Director General, WTO Azevêdo meeting at RIS
Consultation on SDGs: Focus on Affordable and Clean Energy
Emerging Perspectives on Blue Economy: Blue Economy Forum
2nd International Conference on Cultural and Civilizational Links between India and Southeast Asia
International Conference on Indo-Bangladesh Multi Sectoral Cooperation
India-Africa Economic Partnership
2018
South Asia Comes Together for Implementing SDGs
Policy Dialogue on Unlocking the Potential of Regional Cooperation in South Asia
NeST Invited at Paris Peace Forum
Policy Dialogue on Act East and North East
India, Afghanistan and Iran Partnership: Understanding the Emerging Contours

Protecting the Global Trading System and the Role for Multilateralism
De-briefing Session on G-20
South-South Civil Society Conclave
Delhi Dialogue X: Strengthening India-ASEAN Maritime Cooperation
Consultation Meeting on Delhi Dialogue X with ASEAN HoMs
The Road to BAPA+40 through Delhi Process IV
Interactive Session with H.E. Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, President-elect of the United Nations General Assembly
Second ASEAN-India Workshop on Blue Economy
Role of India in Global Order
Pre-BIMSTEC Summit High Level Consultative Meeting
RIS Participation at HLPF, 2018
Infrastructure at the Centrestage of India's Priorities – Shri Arun Jaitley
AiIB Lead-up Events and Host Country Seminars
Third EAS Conference on Maritime Security and Cooperation
Seminar on ASEAN-India Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs)
Launching Science Diplomacy Programme
Panel Discussion on South African Presidency of IORA and BRICS: Issues before Summits
Launching of 'Development Cooperation Review'
National Consultation on “SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere”
Panel Discussion on ‘South African Presidency of IORA'
5th Roundtable of the ASEAN-India Network of Think-Tanks (AINTT)
International Conference on “ASEAN-India @ 25: Retrospection and the Way Ahead”
Discussion Meeting on ‘Research Priorities for the IOR Region’
2019-20
Round table discussion on Uzbekistan-India: New horizons of strategic partnership
India’s Strategic Identity
SDG Conclave 2020 – Partnerships, Cooperation and Development of North Eastern States
Roundtable on ‘Social Enterprises and Social Stock Exchange - the Indian Scenario’
Seminar on Traditional Medicine in India and China
Special Talk on ‘Role of Energy Efficiency in Effective Energy Transition’
Panel Discussion on ‘Capturing Economic Value in India’
Panel Discussions organised during IEA 102nd Annual Conference, Surat
Breakfast Seminar on 'Medical Devices Sector in India: Regulations, Local Manufacturing and Trade'
11th Delhi Dialogue: Advancing Partnership in Indo-Pacific
Third Annual Developing Country Forum 'South-South Cooperation in International Tax Matters'
Regional Policy Dialogue on “Harnessing the Potential of Regional Cooperation for Sustainable Development in South Asia”
Advances in Coastal Research with special reference to Indo-Pacific
Plenary Session on “ASEAN in the Indo-Pacific, Opportunities and Challenges for Future

Economic Development”
Delhi Process Fifth Conference on South-South and Triangular Cooperation
High-Level Political Forum 2019
Third ASEAN-India Workshop on Blue Economy
RIS Co-hosts Sixth IBSA Academic Forum in Kochi
Seminar on Digital Economy, e-Commerce and the WTO
India-Africa Partnership in Agriculture
Special Session on Artificial Intelligence
Trilateral Highway and Its Implication on India’s Northeast Region: Interaction with Tamu Border Authority
India-Central Asia: Traditional Ties and Development Partnership
ASEAN Indo-Pacific Outlook and India
Launch of Initiative on Global Development
RIS at BAPA+40
Reform Multilateral Bodies to Reflect Present Global Reality: Ambassador Anil Sooklal

The role played by the RIS in promotion of regional trade and investment:

In recent years, RIS has played an important role in steering the Asian economic integration, especially South Asian Economic Integration and towards strengthening India’s Economic Cooperation in the East Asia Summit, India’s relations with ASEAN, SAARC, IBSA, and BIMSTEC. The institute richly contributed to the deliberations on a wide range of key issues covering FTAs, RTAs and mega-FTAs. Currently, it is providing empirical contemporaneous policy research inputs on G20, SDGs, WTO issues, IORA, Indo-Pacific Cooperation, Blue Economy, BRICS, COMESA, partnership with EU, Climate Change and Intellectual Property Rights Regimes.

Over the years, RIS has developed an extremely rich programme of activities which includes the following key pillars:

(a) Global Economic Issues and South-South Cooperation covering WTO; Post-2015 Global Development Agenda; International Financial Institutions; International Aid Architecture and Development Cooperation, Global Ethics in Science and Technology; Human Genetics and Access; and SDGs.

(b) For the pillar on Socio-economic impact of trade and development policies RIS publishes its flagship reports such as World Trade and Development Report (WTDR), studies on Global Value Chains in the South, National Income accounting related to Blue Economy, Manufacturing Sector and Job Creation, South Asia Development and Cooperation Report (SADCR) as well as several other reports and publications on specific dimensions of SDGs and global partnerships.

(c) Trade, Investment and Economic Cooperation covering IOR-ARC in the New Millennium; Regional Cooperation for Infrastructure Development; Economic Aspects of Fisheries in the IOR-ARC region; Regional Value Chain in South Asia; IBSA; BRICS; India-China Trade Relationship; Strategic Economic Partnership with Africa; Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement and other mega FTAs; Chinese Trade Engagement with South Asia; South Asia Development and Cooperation Report; Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement; Central and South Asia Economic Integration; India-Japan Economic Partnership; India-COMESA; Export Sophistication in Developing Countries; Economic Integration between India and CLMV region;

Global and Regional Value Chains through Rules of Origin; and India's Engagement with Latin America.

(d) Connectivity and Regional Cooperation covering Development Corridors in Myanmar; Global Financial Sector; ASEAN-India AIC Maritime; ASEAN-India Development and Cooperation Report(AIDCR); Impact of Economic Corridors; Asia-Africa Growth Corridor; Indo-Pacific zone.

(e) New Technologies and Development Issues covering, Biotechnology and development; International Cooperation in Traditional Medicines; Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of Living Modified organisms; Impact of GM Crops; Global Responsible Research; Technology Transfer under the Clean Development Mechanism; Climate change; and IPR regimes, IA, etc.
