

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1714**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.09.2020

SUMMIT DIPLOMACY

1714.SHRI T. R. BAALU:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the reference given recently by the Government to Summit Diplomacy over traditional foreign policy making, has proved to be a severe handicap, while keeping in view that Summit Diplomacy cannot be a substitute for carefully structured foreign office policy making;
- (b) if so, the details thereon with special reference to Asian Continent;
- (c) whether India's Summit Diplomacy has tended to marginalise the External Affairs Ministry thus placing the country at a disadvantage; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) The Government takes a holistic and multi-faceted approach towards diplomacy that advances our national interests using all instruments and mechanisms at its command. Leadership-level interactions have a prominent place in these endeavours, as do the regular engagements of our diplomats. They reinforce each other and should not be considered as exclusive choices.