

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2178
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.07.2022**

DISCUSSION WITH SRI LANKA

2178. SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA:

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

- (a) whether the Government has held discussions with Sri Lanka post the economic crisis there;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps to help Sri Lanka during this period of crisis; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) The close and multifaceted partnership between India and Sri Lanka is characterized by regular engagement and exchange of views on all matters of mutual interest including ways to enhance cooperation for early economic recovery and sustained growth in Sri Lanka. Bilateral engagements that have also focused on economic issues include: i) the visits of the then Minister of Finance of Sri Lanka, Hon. Basil Rajapaksa to India from 01-02 December 2021 and 16-17 March 2022. ii) Virtual meeting held between External Affairs Minister (EAM) and the then Finance Minister of Sri Lanka Hon. Basil Rajapaksa on 15 January 2022. iii) Visit of the then Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka, Hon. G.L Peiris to India in 6-8 February 2022. iv) EAM's visit to Sri Lanka from 27-30 March 2022 for bilateral and BIMSTEC engagements. v) Visit of Foreign Secretary to Sri Lanka on 23 June 2022.

(c) & (d) Under its 'Neighbourhood First' policy, Government is committed to developing friendly and mutually beneficial relations with all its neighbours. In line with this policy, India continues to assist Sri Lanka in its economic development as also support it in overcoming its economic challenges. In January 2022, India extended a US\$ 400 million currency swap to Sri Lanka under the SAARC Framework and deferred successive Asian Clearing Union (A.C.U.) settlements till July 6, 2022. A Line of Credit of US\$ 500 million was extended to Sri Lanka for importing fuel from India. In addition, India has extended a credit facility of US\$ 1 billion for the procurement of food, medicines and other essential items from India. Humanitarian assistance was also provided to Sri Lanka by gifting essential medicines worth about INR 6 crores, 15,000 litres of kerosene oil and US \$ 55 million LoC for procurement of Urea fertilizer. Government of Tamil Nadu has contributed rice, milk powder and medicines worth US\$ 16 million, as part of the larger Indian assistance effort.
