

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 3220

ANSWERED ON- 13.12.2024

INDIA-ITALY TIES

3220. THIRU DAYANIDHI MARAN

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

- (a) the immediate steps taken to implement the India-Middle East-Europe Connectivity Corridor (IMECC) following the agreement reached during India's G20 presidency alongwith the manner in which the Ministry ensure that Italy plays an active role in advancing this initiative;**
- (b) the specific sectors in Italy identified for collaboration under IMECC and the manner Indian stakeholders are likely to benefit from this partnership;**
- (c) the focal areas of economic, defence and technological cooperation between India and Italy;**
- (d) whether any new agreements/investments expected as a result of this strengthened partnership, if so, the details thereof;**

(e) the manner in which India is planning to expand its influence and contributions to international organisations based in Rome, like the FAO and the World Food Programme to advance global food security and agricultural policies; and

(f) the long-term goals for this bilateral relationship with emphasis on Italy as a key partner in Europe and the Mediterranean?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a & b) Italy is among select partners along with India who announced the conclusion of an MOU committing to work together to develop a new India-Middle East- **Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC), on the sidelines of the G20 Leaders' Summit in Delhi in 2023. The other partners include European Union, France, Germany, Saudi Arabia, UAE and US.**

The IMEEC corridor, which aims at integration of Asia, Europe and the Middle East, involves multiple stakeholders and is at an incipient stage.

(c & d and f) India and Italy share a strategic partnership. During their meeting on the margins of G20 Summit in Rio on 18th November 2024, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Italy Ms Giorgia Meloni, announced a Joint Strategic Action Plan (JSAP) for 2025-2029 for

giving an impetus to the bilateral ties. Under the JSAP, both sides will deepen cooperation in diverse domains including trade and investments, science, technology and innovation, space, energy transition, defence, security, migration and mobility, culture, academic and people-to-people ties.

(e) As a founding member of the three UN bodies based in Rome – Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), India is proactively participating in these UN organisations to shape policies and approaches on issues related to global agriculture, food security and nutrition, and rural transformation. India, as a member of key Governing Bodies and Committees, contributes to the effective governance of these UN organisations. India is also articulating the perspective of developing countries. Our partnership with these UN organisations has evolved to joint development of initiatives and technologies, which have immense relevance for other developing countries.
