

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO - 317

ANSWERED ON 21.03.2025

TARIFF THREAT ON BRICS

***317. SHRI RAMPRIT MANDAL**

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV

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

- (a) the current status of BRICS;**
- (b) whether it is true that BRICS has now started disintegrating post the 150 percent tariff threat by America;**
- (c) the total number of countries which are members of BRICS at present; and**
- (d) the opinions of the member countries of BRICS after the said threat by America alongwith the likely role of India in this matter?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(DR. SUBRAMANYAM JAISHANKAR)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (D) IN
RESPECT OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 317 FOR REPLY ON
21.03.2025 REGARDING TARIFF THREAT ON BRICS ASKED BY SHRI
RAMPRIT MANDAL AND SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV**

BRICS, a platform founded in 2006, has been progressing steadily since its inception. It reflects the common concern of its members and seeks to make global debates and leadership more representative and inclusive.

While originally founded with four members (Brazil, Russia, India and China), it added South Africa in 2010. Thereafter, BRICS has expanded to comprise currently of 11 members and 9 partner countries. The expansion of membership and the interest displayed by many aspiring members is itself a statement of its status and importance.

The current members are: Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Indonesia. The partner countries are: Belarus, Bolivia, Cuba, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand, Uganda, and Uzbekistan.

Issues discussed by BRICS include strengthening multilateralism, reforms of UN Security Council, Bretton Woods institutions, WTO,

counterterrorism, health, pandemic preparedness, finance and trade, climate change, improving the international monetary and financial system, biodiversity conservation, promotion and protection of human rights, land degradation, desertification and drought, global water scarcity challenge, exercise of navigational rights and freedoms of vessels, non-proliferation and disarmament, outer space activities and prevention of an arms race in outer space (PAROS), practical counterterrorism cooperation, preventing and combating illicit financial flows, money-laundering and countering the financing of terrorism, combating illicit drug production, trafficking and abuse worldwide, countering transnational organized crime, international anti-corruption agenda, potential of ICTs bridging the digital divides, spread and proliferation of disinformation & misinformation, use of blended finance, key role of the New Development Bank (NDB) in promoting infrastructure and sustainable development of its member countries, cross-border payment instruments, secure, resilient, stable, effective and open supply chains, key role of data for development, e-commerce, Special Economic Zones, digital connectivity, Artificial Intelligence, access to energy, unilateral, punitive and discriminatory protectionist measures, energy research cooperation, role of carbon

markets, climate change, practical collaboration in the field of geology and rational development of mineral resources, oceans for sustainable development and climate stability, Kimberley Process, transport infrastructure, role of World Health Organization, communicable and non-communicable diseases, field of nuclear medicine, remote sensing satellite applications, tourism, competition law and policy, tax cooperation, cooperation in the sphere of standardization, statistical cooperation, Intellectual Property, cooperation in the field of disaster management, cooperation in labour market, public sector auditing, cooperation in the field of justice, Science, Technology Innovation (STI), Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), people-to-people exchanges, enhancing international cooperation in education, role of culture in sustainable development, promotion of traditional and indigenous sports, youth exchanges, inter-parliamentary interaction, dialogue among political parties, promoting affordable housing and urban development and resilience, critical role of women in political, social and economic development.

From time to time, regional political issues such as peaceful settlement in Afghanistan, permanent ceasefire in Gaza, situation in Lebanon, humanitarian crisis in Sudan and Haiti, situation in and

around Ukraine, territorial integrity of Syria, have also been deliberated upon by BRICS members.

Understandably, as nations at different levels of development and income and bearing in mind their individual national interests, BRICS members have a range of positions on contemporary issues. Their meetings and discussions are aimed at finding common ground and working together to shape the global order. Their common thread is the commitment to multi-polarity.
