

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

**MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 5535**

**ANSWERED ON- 04/04/2025**

**INDIA'S DIPLOMATIC PRESENCE IN AFRICA**

**†5535. SHRI LUMBARAM CHOUDHARY**

**DR. HEMANT VISHNU SAVARA**

**SHRI KHAGEN MURMU**

**SMT. BHARTI PARDHI**

**SHRI P P CHAUDHARY**

**SMT. SMITA UDAY WAGH**

**SHRI SHRIRANG APPA CHANDU BARNE**

**SMT. SHOBHANABEN MAHENDRASINH BARAIYA**

**SHRI DHARAMBIR SINGH**

**DR. K SUDHAKAR**

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

**(a) the initiatives/actions taken to strengthen India's strategic presence in the African continent;**

**(b) whether there are any new agreements or collaborations proposed to be formed with African countries in areas like energy, infrastructure and education;**

**(c) if so, the details thereof;**

**(d) the manner in which India's development assistance to African nations has evolved in the recent years; and**

**(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to enhance people-to-people contacts between India and African countries?**

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)**

**(a to e) Over the past decade, India's engagement in Africa has been guided by Vision SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region), which was recently expanded to Vision MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement of Security and Growth Across Regions) for the Global South. India maintains active diplomatic relations with African nations through frequent high-level engagements, including Summits such as India Africa Forum Summit (IAFS); India-Africa Business Conclave (IABC) etc. and bilateral meetings. These interactions, at the level of HoS/HoG, Ministers, and Senior Officials, help to strengthen political ties, address mutual concerns, and explore avenues for cooperation in various sectors. We have expanded our diplomatic footprint in Africa with the opening of 16 new diplomatic Missions since**

**2018, taking the total Indian Missions in the continent to 45. The inclusion of African Union as a permanent member of the G20 during our Presidency in 2023 was also an important step for India to partner with Africa in its Development Framework Agenda 2063. India has strengthened its strategic presence in Africa through initiatives such as infrastructure projects, capacity-building and training programmes including under ICCR and Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC), and collaboration in sectors including energy, education and healthcare.**

**India's development partnership with Africa is based on a consultative model of cooperation, sharing of development experiences and is focused on addressing the priorities and needs of the African countries. Over the years, it has evolved to prioritize sustainable, people-centric projects. In infrastructure, more than 190 LOCs amounting to US\$ 12.22 billion have been extended to 42 partner countries in Africa to implement projects in varied sectors such as power, hydroelectricity, transmission & distribution networks, dams, roads, railways, agriculture & irrigation, industrial units, skills development, civil construction, defence, etc. In education, over 37,000 Africans have been trained in India under ITEC/ICCR scholarships in the last 10 years. India has also launched the second phase of the tele-education and tele-medicine project. On**

**energy, we have invited most of the African countries to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA) to harness alternate and renewable sources of energy; and Global Biofuel Alliance to facilitate and promote intensive utilisation of sustainable biofuel.**

**People-to-people relations are an important dimension of our relations with Africa, and we have extended e-Visa facilities to 33 African countries. To further deepen people-to-people contact, from time to time, Memorandum of Understanding on Cultural Exchange Programmes (CEP) are signed with various countries in the region. Familiarization visit of foreign journalists to India is also conducted which includes engagements with Government departments and field visits to places of commercial, scientific, educational and touristic interests.**

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