GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 740

ANSWERED ON- 07/02/2025

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH MALDIVES

740. Shri Manish Tewari:

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

(a) whether the Union Government is aware of the recent reports in the Washington Post dated 31ˢᵗ December, 2024 alleging efforts made by India to influence political developments in the Maldives;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of India has rebutted the said reports, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures being adopted by the Government to strengthen India's diplomatic presence in Maldives and to ensure that the malefic influence of other nations vying for influence in the larger Indian Ocean Region (IOR) are effectively circumscribed?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a to d) Government of India is aware of the recent report published on 30 December 2024 in The Washington Post in the context of Maldives. The said report has been publicly and categorically rejected by the Government of India, as also by the Government of Maldives.

India and Maldives enjoy neighbourly and cooperative bilateral relations. President of Maldives undertook a State Visit to India in October 2024, wherein, leaders of both countries adopted a joint vision for a Comprehensive Economic & Maritime Security Partnership between India and Maldives, providing a guiding framework to enhance the bilateral ties further.

Maldives is an important partner in India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy and Vision SAGAR, i.e., Security and Growth for All in the Region. India's relations with countries, including Maldives, stand on their own footing and are independent of the relations of those countries with third countries. However, Government of India carefully monitors any developments having a bearing on India's security and economic interests, and takes all necessary measures to safeguard them.

*****