

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2511

ANSWERED ON 13/02/2026

INDIA-UNITED STATES RELATIONS

2511. SMT. PRATIMA MONDAL

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

(a) the reasons behind the apparent strain in India–United States relations, particularly the lack of progress on trade negotiations and the continuing restrictions and uncertainty around work visas for Indian professionals;

(b) the concrete diplomatic steps being taken to safeguard India's economic and people-to-people interests with the United States;

(c) the details of tangible gains which India has delivered for the Global South in terms of development finance, technology access and debt relief beyond summit-level declarations of announcements; and

(d) the manner in which India is safeguarding its strategic and energy interests and the safety of its diaspora amid escalating conflicts in West Asia?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a to d) Issues in India-U.S. bilateral ties in recent times have included the imposition of elevated tariffs by the United States on India's exports and changes implemented by the US in its visa regulations, which have affected students and professionals.

Notwithstanding these developments, the two sides have continued to engage and on 2 February 2026, India and the US agreed to a framework for an interim agreement, under which reciprocal tariffs on Indian goods will be reduced to 18 percent. This is expected to enhance market access for Indian exporters, particularly MSMEs, support employment generation, especially for women and youth and safeguard farmers' interests and rural livelihoods.

On the visa front, stakeholders on both sides remain engaged and representations by the Government have led to the issuance of clarificatory FAQs, providing greater light for impacted applicant categories.

India remains committed to advancing human-centric development in the Global South through concrete infrastructure and community projects, financial and humanitarian assistance, and capacity-building via scholarships and training programmes. During India's G20 Presidency, sustained efforts were made to mainstream Global South priorities, including through the Voice of the Global South Summits. The admission of the African Union as a permanent G20 member reflects India's commitment to amplifying developing country voices in global decision-making. India continues to be a large provider of development finance to the Global South and is a model for technology deployment, including in the fintech space.

The Government continuously monitors geopolitical developments affecting India's national interests and the welfare and safety of Indian nationals abroad. Missions and Posts regularly issue advisories, provide consular assistance and facilitate evacuations

where required, supported by 24×7 helplines and platforms such as MADAD, CPGRAMS and eMigrate.

Energy security remains among India's highest priorities. The Government is pursuing a multi-pronged strategy covering diversification of supply sources, enhanced domestic production, expansion of alternative energy and advancement of the energy transition, while remaining engaged with partner countries to ensure uninterrupted access to affordable energy.
