

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.606
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.07.2016**

VISITS BY DIGNITARIES

**606. SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK:
SHRI S.R. VIJAYAKUMAR:
SHRI KAPIL MORESHWAR PATIL:
SHRI C.N. JAYADEVAN:
SHRI SATAV RAJEEV:
SHRI AJAY NISHAD:
DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN:
SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:
SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:
SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN:
SHRI B. SRIRAMULU:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH:
SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH SHANKARRAO:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI J.J.T. NATTERJEE:**

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of foreign trips undertaken by the President, Prime Minister of India and External Affairs Minister, country-wise along with the agreements/Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed, if any, areas identified for cooperation and discussions held during the last three months and the status of implementation of these agreements;**
- (b) the details of foreign dignitaries who visited India during the aforesaid period, country-wise along with the talks held, sectors decided for further cooperation and the treaties signed; and**
- (c) the other steps taken by the Government to improve the bilateral relations with these countries?**

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]**

- (a) & (c) Information has been compiled and placed at Annexure 'A'.**
- (b) & (c) Information has been compiled and placed at Annexure 'B'.**

Visits by Dignitaries

I. President's Visits

S.No.	Countries Visited during the last three months (May, June and July 2016) with dates	Agreements/Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed, if any	Status of implementation of Agreements/ MOUs signed	Areas identified for cooperation and discussions held	Other steps taken by the Government to improve bilateral relations with the country
(a)					(c)
1	China (24-27 May 2016)	No Government-to-Government MOUs were signed during the visit. 10 MOUs for academic collaboration and exchanges were signed between various academic institutions during the India-China Roundtable of University President/Vice-Chancellors	The MOUs are being implemented by the concerned academic institutions	Rashtrapati held bilateral talks with President Xi Jinping and had meetings with Premier Li Keqiang and Chairman NPC Zhang Dejiang. All the Chinese leaders warmly remembered their recent visits to India and conveyed their conviction that this State Visit would provide new impetus to the development of bilateral relations. Interaction with Chinese leadership was multi-faceted and comprehensive. Discussions were wide-ranging and covered various areas of mutual interest. There was deep appreciation of the role played by high-level visits in enhancing mutual understanding and political trust.	India-China relationship continues to move forward on an even keel. India-China relations are stable, mature and progressive
2	Ghana (12-14 June 2016)	i. MoU on Establishment of Joint Commission between India and Ghana ii. MoU on cooperation between Foreign Service Institute of the Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Regional	i. Entered into force ii. Entered into force iii. In the process of being entered into force	Bilateral, regional and international areas of mutual interest were discussed. Areas identified for cooperation include trade, investment, capacity building, developmental cooperation as also cooperation in multilateral fora on	The Government continues to strive to strengthen, deepen and broaden bilateral relations.

		Integration of Ghana iii. Agreement on Exemption from Visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic and Official passport		issues of mutual interest such as UN Reforms and terrorism.	
3	Republic of Cote d' Ivoire (14-15 June 2016)	-	-	Bilateral relations and a wide range of issues of mutual interest were discussed. Need for regular and consistent interaction was underlined. Areas identified for cooperation include trade, investment, capacity building, developmental cooperation as also cooperation in multilateral fora on issues of mutual interest such as UN Reforms and terrorism.	The Government continues to strive to strengthen, deepen and broaden bilateral relations.
4	Namibia (15-17 June 2016)	i) MoU on establishment of a Center of Excellence in Information Technology (CEIT) between the Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation of the Government of the Republic of Namibia and the Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of the Republic of India ii) MoU between Namibia Institute of Public Administration and Management (NIPAM) of the Republic of Namibia and Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA) of the Republic of India concerning technical cooperation in the area of capacity building of public officials	Discussions under way with the Namibian side on the modalities of implementation.	i. Political ii. Economic and Commercial iii. Energy iv. Mining v. Tourism vi. Multilateral Economic Pacts vii. Development Cooperation Partnership iii. Renewable Energy ix. International Terrorism and Security	i. Announcement of doubling of ITEC slots to 200 per annum. ii. Announcement of a cash grant of US\$ 20,000 for the Indra Gandhi Clinic run by the Founding President of Namibia iii. Finalisation of terms and conditions for deputation of Indian Army Personnel to the Namibian Defence Forces. iv. Gifting of 100 tonnes of essential medicines and 1000 tonnes of rice.

II. Prime Minister's Visits

S.No.	Countries Visited during the last three months (May, June & July 2016)	Agreements/Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed, if any	Status of implementation of Agreements/MOUs signed	Areas identified for cooperation and discussions held	Other steps taken by the Government to improve bilateral relations with the country
			(a)		(c)
1	Iran (22-23 May 2016)	<p>(i) India-Iran Cultural Exchange Programme</p> <p>(ii) MoU between the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) of Iran on Policy Dialogue between Governments and Interaction between Think Tanks</p> <p>(iii) MoU between Foreign Service Institute, MEA and the School of International Relations, Iran's MoFA</p> <p>(iv) Implementation Protocol between Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of S&T and Iran's Ministry of Science, Research and Technology on Cooperation in the Fields of Science and Technology</p> <p>(v) MoU between Indian Council for Cultural Relations and Islamic Culture and Relations Organizations of the IR Iran</p> <p>(vi) Bilateral contract on Chabahar Port for port development and operations between IPGPL [India Ports Global Private Limited] and Arya Banader of Iran</p> <p>(vii) MoU between EXIM Bank and Iran's Ports and Maritime</p>	Government is following up on the cooperation documents signed through inter-ministerial coordination and bilateral dialogue mechanisms.	Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Iranian leaders agreed to build a strong, contemporary and cooperative relationship that draws upon the strength of the historical and civilisational ties between the two countries, leverages their geographical proximity, and responds to the needs of an increasingly inter-dependent world.	The Government is dedicated to utilising the emerging opportunities in bilateral relations with Iran to the maximum possible extent in all areas of bilateral economic and commercial cooperation, in particular connectivity and infrastructure, energy, and trade & investment.

		<p>Organization [PMO] on current specific terms for the Chabahar Port project</p> <p>(viii) Confirmation Statement between EXIM Bank and Central Bank of Iran</p> <p>(ix) MoU between ECGC [Export Credit Guarantee Corporation] Limited of India and the Export Guarantee Fund of Iran (EGFI)</p> <p>(x) MoU between National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) and the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO)</p> <p>(xi) MoU between IRCON and Construction, Development of Transport and Infrastructure Company (CDTIC) of Iran</p> <p>(xii) MoU for cooperation between the National Archives of India and the National Library and Archives Organisation of the Islamic Republic of Iran</p>			
2	Afghanistan (04 June 2016)	-	-	<p>Hon'ble PM paid a brief visit to Herat city on June 4, 2016 to co-inaugurate with President Ghani the Afghan-India Friendship Dam. Prime Minister was conferred the highest civil honour of Afghanistan, The Emir Amanullah Khan Medal, during his visit to Herat.</p>	<p>India is committed to continuing its strong support for a united, democratic, sovereign, secure and prosperous Afghanistan. Our pledged assistance of US\$ 2 billion for the development of Afghanistan and contribution to institution and infrastructure building are the central elements of our strategic partnership.</p> <p>In order to assist Afghanistan and to improve connectivity in the wider region, India has</p>

					<p>joined with Iran and Afghanistan to develop the Chabahar trilateral transport and transit corridor.</p> <p>Government is also actively making preparations for hosting the Sixth Ministerial Meeting of the Istanbul Process on Afghanistan in the last quarter of 2016. The theme of the meeting is “Addressing Challenges, Achieving Prosperity.”</p>
3	Qatar (04-05 June 2016)	<p>i) MoU between National Investment and Infrastructure Fund , Ministry of Finance, Government of India and Qatar Investment Authority</p> <p>ii) Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters between the Government of Republic of India and Government of the State of Qatar</p> <p>iii) MoU between Financial Intelligence Unit – India and the Qatar Financial Information Unit concerning cooperation in the exchange of intelligence related to money laundering, terrorism-financing and related crimes</p> <p>iv) MoU between the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, the Government of Republic of India and the National Qualifications Authority/Supreme Education Council, Government of the State of Qatar for</p>	MoU/ Agreements are being ratified by the concerned Ministries/ Departments from both sides.	Both sides discussed ways to enhance bilateral cooperation in the areas of trade and investment, energy security, defence and security, prevention of money laundering, youths and sports affairs, skill development.	The Government continues to strive to strengthen, deepen and broaden bilateral relations.

		<p>Cooperation in Skill Development and Recognition of Qualifications</p> <p>v) MoU on cooperation in Tourism between the Government of the Republic of India and Government of the State of Qatar.</p> <p>vi) MOU between India & Qatar for Cooperation in the field of Health the Government of the Republic of India and Government of the State of Qatar.</p> <p>vii) The First Executive Programme for MoU in the field of Youth and Sports between the Government of Republic of India and Government of the State of Qatar</p>			
4	Switzerland (05-06 June 2016)	-	-	Hon'ble PM held bilateral meetings with the President of the Swiss Confederation H.E. Mr. Johann Schneider-Ammann, attended a Business Round Table with Switzerland's leading companies, and also had a meeting with Indian research scholars based at CERN. Hon'ble Prime Minister and the President of the Swiss Confederation discussed the entire gamut of bilateral relations and important regional and global issues of mutual interest.	During the recent visit to Switzerland on 20-22 June 2016 of MoS (I/C) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Mr. Rajiv Pratap Rudy, a MoU on bilateral cooperation in the areas of skills development and vocational education and training was signed.
5	USA (06-08 June 2016)	<p>(In the run up to the visit)</p> <p>i. Arrangement between the Multi-Agency Centre/Intelligence Bureau of the Government of India and the</p>	Follow-up action has been initiated by the Government in consultation and cooperation with the	In addition to the official talks with the US President, Prime Minister addressed a Joint Meeting of the US Congress. He also had interactions with	Prime Minister's visit was aimed at consolidation of progress made in various areas in the last two years under the leadership of Prime Minister and

		<p>Terrorist Screening Center of the Government of the United States of America for the exchange of Terrorist Screening Information</p> <p>ii. MOU between the Government of India and the Government of the United States of America to enhance cooperation on Energy Security, Clean Energy and Climate Change</p> <p>iii. MOU between the Government of India and the Government of the United States of America to enhance co-operation on Wildlife Conservation and Combating Wildlife Trafficking</p> <p>iv. MOU between Consular, Passport and Visa Division of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and US Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security of the United States for the Development of an International Expedited Traveler Initiative (the Global Entry Programme)</p> <p>v. Technical Arrangement between the Indian Navy and the United States Navy concerning Unclassified Maritime Information Sharing</p> <p>vi. MOU between the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India and the Department of Energy of the United States of America for Cooperation in Gas Hydrates</p>	<p>Government of the US to implement the various Agreements/ MOUs signed.</p>	<p>business representatives and think-tanks. Prime Minister's other engagements included visit to Arlington Cemetery; call on PM by US Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter and handling over of Indian antiquities to PM by the US Attorney General Loretta Lynch.</p> <p>There were significant and concrete outcomes in key areas of cooperation such as civil nuclear; clean energy; defence and security; economy and people-to-people ties, which have been captured in the Joint Statement titled "<i>The United States and India: Enduring Global Partners in the 21st Century</i>"</p>	<p>the US President and to intensify cooperation for the future. Government continues to remain engaged with all relevant stakeholders for further enhancing India's bilateral relations with the United States across a broad spectrum of areas and activities. The US is India's important strategic partner for achieving our developmental objectives and regional and global aspirations.</p>
6	Mexico (08 June 2016)	-	-	<p>i) Trade and investment ii) Science & Technology iii) Energy Sector iv) Solar Energy</p>	<p>The next Binational JCM Meeting is proposed to be held in 2016. Other meetings held/scheduled include</p>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> v) International Solar Alliance vi) Tourism vii) Culture viii) Education ix) National Digital Strategy x) Diaspora welfare xi) G-20 xii) UNO xiii) Climate Change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) 4th Bilateral High Level Group on Trade & Investment Meeting: 13-14 July 2016 ii) Workshop on Space Cooperation: 13-15 July 2016 iii) VIth Joint Committee on S&T: 18-19 July 2016.
7	Uzbekistan (23-24 June 2016) (SCO Summit)	Memorandum of Obligation was signed with Shanghai Cooperation Organisation	Instrument of Ratification has been processed for the Memorandum of Obligation and will be forwarded to our Embassy in Beijing for its submission to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Secretariat. The Memorandum will enter into force on receipt of notification from India and six Member States of completion of necessary internal procedures for bringing into force of the Memorandum.	-	-
8	Mozambique (07 July 2016)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. MoU between India and Mozambique on drug demand reduction and prevention of illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals and related matters. ii. MoU between Government of India and Government of Mozambique in the field of Youth Affairs and Sports. 	Preliminary discussions have commenced with the Mozambican side for finalising the modalities for implementation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Greater economic engagement in trade and investment. ii. Commercial farming of pulses in Mozambique, for Indian market. iii. Enhancing defence and security ties, especially in maritime security, defence training, and medical support for Mozambican forces. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Gifting of medicines and medical equipment ii. Cash grant of USD 1,22,000 for donating four buses to the Maluana Science and Technology Park iii. Supply of SUVs and Armoured Personnel

		iii. Long-term agreement for purchase of pulses from Mozambique.		iv. Development support from India to Mozambique, including through new projects under Indian Lines of Credit. v. Reconnecting with Indian-origin community in Mozambique.	Carriers (APCs) for Mozambique Security forces.
9	South Africa (08-09 July 2016)	i. MoU on cooperation in the field of Tourism ii. Programme of Cooperation in the field of Arts and Culture iii. MoU on cooperation in the field of Grass Root Innovations iv. MoU on cooperation in the field of Communication and Information Technology	Government is following up on the cooperation documents signed	i) Defence ii) Mining iii) Infrastructure iv) Bilateral Trade v) Tourism vi) Cooperation in multilateral/plurilateral fora	Release of a book “India & South Africa-Trade and Investment Partners” published by MEA.
10	Tanzania (10 July 2016)	i. MoU on cooperation in the field of water resource management and development between the two countries. ii. MoU on Visa waiver agreement for Diplomatic/official passport holders between the two countries. iii. Agreement on Joint Action Plan (JAP) between National Small Industries Corporation of India (NSIC) and Small Industries Development Organization Tanzania (SIDO) iv. LoC of US\$ 92 million for rehabilitation and improvement of water supply system in Zanzibar v. MoU between the Government of Tanzania and the Government of India for Establishment of Vocational Training Centre at Zanzibar	Government is following up on the cooperation documents signed	i. Infrastructure development especially in Water sector ii. To increase bilateral trade and investment iii. Cooperation in counter-terrorism, iv. Capacity development v. Cooperation in the areas of health and agriculture	i. Completion of Part I of Water Supply Enhancement project under Indian LOC ii. Setting up of ICT Resource Centre at NM African Institute of S&T, Arusha by CDAC iii. Handing over of Bhabhatron radio therapy Machine as a gift iv. Gifting of medicines and Medical equipment v. Gifting of 10 ambulances vi. Gifting of 100,000 books

11	Kenya (11 July 2016)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Revised Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) ii. Bilateral agreement on Exemption of Visa for holders of Diplomatic passports. iii. MoU on Defence Cooperation. iv. MoU on cooperation in the field of standardisation, expertise sharing and mutual trade between Bureau of Indian Standards and Bureau of Kenya Standards. v. MoU on Cooperation in the field of National Housing Policy Development and Management. vi. Line of Credit Agreement for US\$ 15 million (First tranche of USD 30 million) to IDB Capital Limited, Kenya, for development of various small and medium enterprises [SMEs] in Kenya. vii. Line of Credit Agreement for US\$ 29.95 million to the Government of Kenya for upgrade of Rift Valley Textiles Factory [RIVATEX East Africa Limited], Kenya. 	Government is following up on the cooperation documents signed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Defence, agriculture and health cooperation ii. Increased trade and investment iii. Cooperation in counter-terrorism, Cyber security, combating drug and human trafficking. iv. Capacity development v. Increased tourism and people to people contact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Handing over of 30 field ambulances to Kenya Defense Forces ii. Release of 'Doing Business in Kenya' published by MEA iii. Announcement of gifting of a unit of Bhabhatron. iv. Announcement for gifting of medical equipments from India. v. Announcement of a cash grant of US\$1 million to the University of Nairobi for renovation of Mahatma Gandhi Library. vi. Announcement for the launch of a Festival of India in October/ November 2016. vii. ICCR Chair at University of Nairobi.
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III. External Affairs Minister's Visits

S.No.	Countries Visited during the last three months (May, June & July 2016)	Agreements/Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed, if any	Status of implementation of Agreements/MOUs signed	Areas identified for cooperation, of discussions held	Other steps taken by the Government to improve bilateral relations with the country
(a)			(c)		
No visits undertaken					

Visits by Dignitaries

S.No	Country from where the Foreign Dignitary visited India during the last three months (May, June and July 2016)	Details (Name, Designation and dates of visit)	List of MOUs/Agreements/Treaties signed	Details of talks held/sectors decided for cooperation	Other steps taken by the Government to improve the bilateral relations
			(b)		(c)
1	Sri Lanka	His Excellency Mr. Maithripala Sirisena, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka; 13-14 May 2016	-	H.E. Maithripala Sirisena, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, paid a working visit to India from May 13-14, 2016. Talks were held between Prime Minister and President of Sri Lanka over dinner. The discussions reviewed the totality of India-Sri Lanka bilateral ties. President Sirisena addressed the valedictory session at the Vaicharik Mahakumbh which was held as part of the Simhastha Mahakumbh in Ujjain on the 14th of May. He also visited Sanchi where he toured the World famous Sanchi Stupa and attended a function by the Mahabodhi Society of Sri Lanka during which statue of Anagarika Dharmapala was unveiled	The Government continues to strive to strengthen, deepen and broaden bilateral relations.
2	Nepal	His Excellency Shri Kamal Thapa, DPM and Foreign Minister of Nepal (10-12 June 2016)	-	Mr. Kamal Thapa, Foreign Minister of Nepal presided over the first Convocation ceremony of the South Asian University on 11 June 2016 (Nepal is currently the SAARC Chair). Mr. Kamal Thapa also had a bilateral meeting with the External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj on 10 June 2016.	India and Nepal share historical and civilizational links and have always maintained close and friendly political, economic, cultural and social ties. The Government of India continues to take all necessary measures to

					strengthen bilateral relations with Nepal and to safeguard Indian interests
3	Thailand	His Excellency General Prayut Chan-o-Cha (Retd), Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand (16-18 June 2016)	<p>i) Executive Programme of Cultural Exchange between the Govt. of the Republic of India and the Govt. of the Kingdom of Thailand for the years 2016-2019, and</p> <p>ii) MoU between Nagaland University, India and Chiang Mai University, Thailand on Cooperation in Academics.</p>	Talks held with Hon'ble Vice President, PM and EAM on various bilateral, multilateral and international issues including defence, security, maritime, cyber security, white shipping, counter terrorism, FTA, Cultural exchange, investment opportunities in India's flagship programmes, connectivity etc. Thai PM also attended a business meeting organised by FICCI, CII and ASSOCHAM along with the Thai Business delegation wherein recommendations on expanding business and investment opportunities between the two countries were discussed.	By energizing the existing institutional mechanisms and creation of new to achieve progress in key areas such security, defence, commerce and connectivity.
4	Hungary	His Excellency MR. Péter Sziijártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary (04-06 July 2016)	-	Held discussions with EAM on bilateral matters as well as important regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest. He also held discussions with MOS (IC) for Commerce & Industry on the ways of boosting bilateral trade, diversifying their trade basket, and achieving higher levels of mutual investment.	In the months preceding the visit a number of activities such as Ganga Danube Cultural festival etc were undertaken for promotion of culture. Further activities in these areas were discussed for implementation in the coming days.
