

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the discussions made and decisions arrived at so far;
- (d) the MoUs signed so far in each area; and
- (e) in what manner it would be beneficial to our country?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) Yes.

(b) to (e) Mr. Lee Myung-bak, President of the Republic of Korea (ROK) paid a State Visit to India from 24-27 January, 2010. He was also the Chief Guest at the celebrations on 26 January to mark the Republic Day of India. The ROK President was accompanied by a high level political and business delegation. During the visit, he held delegation-level talks with the Prime Minister of India and called on the President of India. The Vice President of India, the External Affairs Minister, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Chairperson (UPA) called on the visiting dignitary. The ROK President addressed an India-ROK Business Forum that was organized in New Delhi coinciding with the visit. The entire gamut of India-ROK bilateral relations was discussed. A Joint Statement was issued following the delegation level talks on 25 January 2010. Four documents were signed during the visit, namely (i) Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons, (ii) MOU on Cooperation in Information Technology and Services, (iii) Programme of Cooperation in the Fields of Science and Technology for the period 2010-12 and (iv) MOU between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Korea Aerospace Research Institute (KARI) for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. India-ROK relations have now been elevated to a "Strategic Partnership", which strengthens India's Look-East Policy.

Strengthening relations with African countries

†4338. SHRI GOBINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps Government proposes to take to strengthen the political, economical and diplomatic relations with African countries;
- (b) if so, the agreements signed with African countries recently; and
- (c) the names of African countries with whom the Government is considering to strengthen its relations in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR): (a) The Government of India has taken several steps to strengthen relations with African countries. Among the major decisions under implementation are:

- (i) Duty Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) for exports from Least Developed Countries of Africa;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (ii) Additional Lines of Credit amounting to US\$ 5.4 billion;
 - (iii) Grants in Aid in excess of US\$ 500 million over the next 5-6 years for implementing projects focussing on human resource development and capacity building;
 - (iv) Doubling of India's long-term scholarships for undergraduates, postgraduates and higher courses from the current 244 for Africa to 488 per year;
 - (v) Increasing the number of training slots under our technical assistance programmes from 1100 annually to 1600 every year for Africa.
- (b) A list of Agreements signed with African countries recently is given in the Statement (See below).
- (c) Government proposes to strengthen its relations with all countries in Africa.

Statement

List of agreements signed by India with African countries during 2009-10

Benin:

- Agreement for the creation of the India - Benin Joint Committee for Political, Economic, Scientific, Technical and Cultural Cooperation.
- Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations
- Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Republic of Benin for Setting up an Information Technology Centre of Excellence (CETI) in the Republic of Benin.
- Cultural Exchange Programme between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Benin for the years 2009-2012

Botswana:

- MOU on Cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Allied Sectors
- Educational Exchange Programme.

Cape Verde:

- Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations

Democratic Republic of the Congo:

- Cultural Cooperation Agreement

Djibouti:

- Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPPA)

Egypt:

- A Joint Action Plan (JAP) for cooperation between the Egyptian Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Indian Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)

Lesotho:

- MOU to set up a India-Lesotho Centre for Advance Education in Information Technology

Liberia:

- Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations

Libya:

- Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPPA)

Malawi:

- MOU on Cooperation in Agriculture and Allied Sectors.
- Protocol for Foreign Office Consultations.

Mali:

- Agreement on Political, Economic, Scientific, Cultural & Technical Cooperation
- Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations

Mauritius:

- MOU on setting up of Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) in Mauritius based on Indian PKI model;
- Protocol on the Sale of Navigational Charts;
- Agreement on Cooperation for the establishment of telemetry, tracking and tele-command station for satellites and launch vehicles and for cooperation in the fields of space research, science and applications;
- MoU for the sharing of e-procurement platform of Government of Andhra Pradesh with Mauritius;
- MoU on Plant Health Cooperation.

Namibia:

- Agreement on Cooperation in Peaceful Uses of nuclear Energy;
- Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Defence;
- MoU on Cooperation in the field of Geology and Mineral Resources;
- MoU on Exemption from Visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic and Official Passports and;
- Country Agreement on Namibian accession to Pan-African e-Network Project.

Sao Tome & Principe:

- Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Sao Tome & Principe

Seychelles:

- MoU on setting up of India-Seychelles Centre for Excellence in ICT (ISCEICT)

Sudan:

- MoU for cooperation in the oil and gas sector.

Encroachment by China

339. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state: