

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (d) As a gesture of solidarity with the victims of the massive floods in Pakistan, Government has given an assistance of US\$ 25 million for flood relief to the people of Pakistan. The assistance has been given through the United Nations, as requested by the Government of Pakistan.

PM'S visit to foreign countries

379. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has visited many foreign countries during the last two months and held discussions with his counterparts;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held and outcome thereof;

(c) whether any MoUs have been signed between the countries to which PM visited; and

(d) if so, to what extent India has benefited from such MOUs?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) The details of foreign countries visited during the last two months are as follows:

(i) Japan - October 24-26, 2010

(ii) Malaysia - October 26-28, 2010

(iii) Socialist Republic of Vietnam - October 28-30, 2010

(b) to (d) Details are as follows:

Visit of Prime Minister to Japan: Prime Minister visited Tokyo for the Annual Summit. PM's visit and his meetings with Japanese leaders reaffirmed our 'Strategic and Global Partnership' with Japan. The two Prime Ministers announced the conclusion of negotiations on India-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. The following documents were signed during the visit:

(a) Joint Statement: Vision for India-Japan Strategic and Global Partnership in the Next Decade

(b) Joint Declaration between the Leaders of India and Japan on the Conclusion of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.

(c) Memorandum on Simplifying Visa Procedures between India and Japan.

The first two documents reflect the political understandings reached during PM's visit. The Memorandum on Simplifying Visa Procedures intends to make it easier for Indian and Japanese citizens to travel to each other's country for tourism, business, employment and educational purposes.

Visit of Prime Minister to Malaysia: Prime Minister had detailed discussions with his counterpart on all facets of bilateral relations, as well as regional and global issues of mutual interest. The two Prime Ministers agreed to establish a strategic partnership to expand and deepen India-Malaysia bilateral relations. The following six MoUs/Agreement were signed during the visit

- Agreement towards Implementing Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)
- MOU for cooperation in the field of Tourism
- MoU on Traditional Systems of Medicine
- MOU for Cooperation in the field of IT & Services
- Cultural Exchange Programme for 2010-13
- Agreement between CSIR of India and UNIK of Malaysia on Research and Development Collaboration

The MoUs will strengthen, promote and develop cooperation with Malaysia.

Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Prime Minister visited Hanoi, Vietnam to lead the Indian delegation to the 8th India-ASEAN Summit and 5th East Asia Summit.

The 8th India-ASEAN Summit focused on Initiative for ASEAN Integration and the ASEAN Connectivity to narrow the development gap within ASEAN, transportation networks between ASEAN and South Asia through the construction of the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway, ICT connectivity, business and tourism facilitation, aviation cooperation, people-to-people exchange, etc.

Discussions at the 5th East-Asia Summit focused on five priority areas - finance, education, energy, disaster management and avian flu prevention. Issues such as intra-ASEAN connectivity, regional cooperation on energy, climate change, Doha Round were also touched upon. The issues

such as maintaining peace and stability on the Korean peninsula, elections in Myanmar, trafficking in people and related trans-national crime also figured at the Summit.

No MoUs/treaties were signed in the context of 8th India-ASEAN Summit and 5th East Asia Summit.

Criticism by Amartya Sen

†380. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Dr. Amartya Sen has criticized Government of India's Myanmar policy during the recent past in America;

(b) if so, the basis therefor; and

(c) the reactions of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (c) There have been media reports of Dr. Amartya Sen's views on Myanmar. These are Dr. Sen's personal views and Government does not react to these personal views.

Staff in missions in gulf countries

381. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has noticed about the necessity of more staff in Indian mission offices in Gulf countries; and

(b) whether Government would enhance the facilities including staff in foreign missions?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) Indian missions in Gulf countries have officers and staff in place generally as per their respective sanctioned strength.

(b) The Ministry processes requests for enhancement of facilities including staff within the resources available and global requirements of our missions abroad.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.