

BRICS Summit in India

2367. SHRI SALIM ANSARI :

SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that during the recent BRICS Summit, meeting of Trade Ministers of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa was held in India;
- (b) if so, the agenda of the Summit;
- (c) the important decisions taken by BRICS in the Summit; and
- (d) in what manner India is benefited from the outcome of BRICS Summit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) to (d) Yes. The meeting of BRICS Trade Ministers was held on 28 March 2012 in New Delhi prior to the BRICS Summit which took place on 29 March 2012. The Trade Ministers discussed global economic developments and their impact on trade and investments, the Doha Development Round and multilateral trading regime, coordination and consultation amongst BRICS in other multilateral forums and ways and means to further deepening of intra-BRICS cooperation.

The BRICS Summit agenda covered two clusters of themes. The cluster 'Global Governance', covered issues relevant to the global economic situation, the contemporary political situation (including developments in West Asia), WTO and the international trading regime, and reform of international institutions of global governance. The second cluster 'Sustainable Development' covered issues relevant to sustainable development particularly in the context of the forthcoming UN Conference of Sustainable Development (Rio+20), issues of food and energy security and consolidation of intra-BRICS cooperation.

The Delhi Declaration issued following the discussions at the BRICS Summit captures the decisions reached by the Leaders and articulates BRICS positions on a number of important international issues. These include an understanding to work with the international community to ensure international policy coordination to maintain macroeconomic stability conducive to the healthy recovery of the global economy to achieve strong, sustained and balanced global growth. BRICS positions articulated in this context cover the issues of a more representative international financial and monetary architecture, reform of the international financial institutions, the progress in the Doha Round, attaining MDGs and the need for enhancing flow of development finance to emerging and developing countries in this regard. Political issues, contemporary developments in West Asia, including Syria, Iran and Afghanistan in particular were discussed along with other global concerns such as the fight against

terrorism, food and energy security and sustainable development. An Action Plan lists agreed areas including coordination amongst the BRICS countries in international forums such as the G20, the UN Conference on Sustainable Development etc. as well as intra-BRICS cooperation in Agriculture, Health, S&T, Trade & Investment, Energy and Urban Infrastructure Development.

Recognising the pressing need to enhance flow of development finance to emerging and developing countries, the Leaders have directed BRICS Finance Ministers to examine the feasibility and viability of establishing a new Development Bank for mobilizing resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects to supplement the existing efforts of multilateral and regional financial institutions for global growth and development and submit a report at the next Summit.

Two Agreements, (i) Master Agreement on Extending Credit Facility in Local Currencies, and (ii) BRICS Multilateral Letter of Credit Confirmation Facility Agreement were signed at the Summit by BRICS EXIM/Development Banks. Both of these are enabling agreements subject to national country regulations that would help to enhance cooperation amongst the BRICS Development Banks, reduce intra-BRICS trade transaction costs and promote intra-BRICS trade benefitting all BRICS countries including India.

Foreign Minister's level talks with Pakistan

†2368. SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether any initiative was taken at Foreign Minister's level at the time of Pakistani President Mr. Zardari's visit to India regarding the increasing activities of terrorism in Pakistan and handing over the key accused to India who are conducting terrorist activities in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : Foreign Minister of Pakistan did not accompany President Zardari during his visit to India on April 8, 2012. The issue of terrorism as discussed during the meeting between Prime Minister and President Zardari. Prime Minister told President Zardari that there is need for taking firm action to curb terrorism to enable us to make forward movement in the bilateral relationship. He conveyed that it was imperative to bring the perpetrators of the Mumbai attack to justice, and prevent activities aimed against India from Pakistani soil. In this context, he also mentioned the activities of Hafiz Saeed carried out in public. It would be evident that our concerns on terrorism had to be addressed if the people of India are to support and sustain progress in bilateral relations.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.