

(b) the expectations from the co-operation with this country on Government to Government and private business levels; and

(c) the political and economic benefits India is expecting to receive from Georgia, taking into account the crisis in the economy of this country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) India and Georgia have had cordial relations since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1992. Georgia opened a resident Mission in New Delhi in 2010. With a new government in Georgia following parliamentary elections in October 2012, it is expected that diplomatic interaction will intensify. The Prime Minister of India sent a congratulatory message to the new Prime Minister of Georgia, Mr. Bidzina Ivanishvili on 01 November, 2012.

(b) and (c) At the governmental level, India-Georgia Foreign Office Consultations are proposed to be held in 2013 in Georgia. The dates will be worked out according to mutual convenience.

Our bilateral trade with Georgia currently stands at approximately Rs. 376 crores for the period April-August, 2012. There has been a steady increase in our bilateral trade over the years. Investments have been made by Indian business entities in the oil, steel, power and agricultural sectors. There is a small Indian community of a few hundred people in Georgia and several thousand students in Georgia, mostly pursuing courses in medicine.

Impact of India joinng NSG

2964. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is moving closer to its pursuit of joining the World's top four atomic control regimes after four years;

(b) whether the 46-Nation Nuclear Supplier Group (NSG) would opened the doors for global nuclear trade for India;

(c) whether joining NSG is key to the entire game as it would set the stage for India to join the other three regimes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (d) The Government has expressed its interest in the

full membership of four export control regimes, including Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG). United States, France and Russia have publicly stated their support for India's membership of the NSG. India attaches importance to making progress in tandem to achieving the objective of full membership of the NSG and the other three regimes.

Britain slashing aid to India

2965. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that Government of Britain has decided to slash its 280 million pound aid to India by half;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has reacted to the said proposal of the Britain; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (d) The Government of United Kingdom had announced on November 9, 2012 that no new financial aid grants will be made to India with immediate effect. The programmes already underway will be completed by 2015 as planned. There is no announcement regarding slashing of aid by Government of United Kingdom by half of Pounds 280 million per annum being provided to India. The Government of United Kingdom had consulted Government of India regarding their proposal to discontinue their financial aid programme to India from 2015 onwards. This proposal was agreed to by the Government of India.

PM attending 16th NAM Summit

2966. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister has attended 16th NAM Summit in Tehran;
- (b) if so, the details of the Summit;
- (c) whether Prime Minister held meetings with leaders of other countries on the sidelines of the Summit; and