

Funds contributed by India to UNDEF

2662. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total fund contributed by India to United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF) since its inception;
- (b) the projects that are being funded through UNDEF; and
- (c) the details and including funds spent, nature of the project etc., location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) India has contributed a cumulative amount of USD 29.71 million till date to the UN Democracy Fund (UNDEF), since its inception in 2005 to support democracy projects around the world.

(b) and (c) According to information made available by UNDEF, since its establishment UNDEF has supported more than 450 projects in over 100 countries and has disbursed financial support worth approximately US\$ 140 million. Of these, 158 projects are located in the Africa region, 112 in the Asia-Pacific region, 71 in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region, 54 in the Europe region, 45 in the Arab region, and 24 having a global reach. These projects are mainly in the following areas: community development, rule of law and human rights, tools for democratization, youth, empowering women, and media.

Presence of UN Military Observer Group in Kashmir

†2663. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many armymen and civilian members of United Nations Military Observer Group are present in Kashmir presently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for their presence;
- (c) whether Government is taking any steps to close this Observer Group's office in Kashmir; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.