

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.

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) Yes.

(b) to (d) UNMOGIP was established under a UN Security Council Resolution and was meant to supervise the Cease Fire Line established in Jammu and Kashmir under the Karachi Agreement of July 1949. However, the UNMOGIP's role has been overtaken by the Simla Agreement of 1972 between India and Pakistan and the establishment of the Line of Control. Under the Simla Agreement both countries have resolved to settle their differences by peaceful means through bilateral negotiations. It was also agreed that the Line of Control resulting from the ceasefire of December 17, 1971 shall be respected by both sides, and that neither side shall seek to alter it unilaterally, irrespective of mutual differences and legal interpretations. Both sides also agreed to refrain from the threat or the use of force in violation of this Line.

Delay in commencement of medical facilities in Sri Lanka

2664. SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1261 given in the Rajya Sabha on 23 August, 2012 and state:

(a) the reasons for the delay in commencement of the project for which project consultants had been appointed way back in 2003;

(b) in what manner this inordinate delay has affected our bilateral relations with Sri Lanka;

(c) whether Government would fix responsibility for the delay;

(d) the other health related projects that India had undertaken to execute in Sri Lanka and which have been similarly delayed; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (c) Although the project was conceived in 2003, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed with the Government of Sri Lanka only in April 2008 after detailed discussions on the project parameters.