

10 November, 2013 for their 12th meeting and *inter-alia* discussed the issue regarding combating terrorism. The Ministers reiterated that terrorism is a threat to international peace and security and a grave violation of human rights and a crime against humanity. They condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever, and for whatever purposes. The Ministers affirmed the need for all States to join efforts in combating terrorism under the auspices of the United Nations, based on the UN Charter, the relevant UN Security Council (UNSC) resolutions, the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and relevant principles and norms of international law. The Ministers agreed that there cannot be ideological, religious, political, racial, ethnic, or any other justification for acts of terrorism. They underlined the need to bring to justice perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of terrorist acts.

(b) and (c) India has established bilateral Joint Working Groups on Counter Terrorism with both Russia and China. These Groups, which meet regularly, have proved useful for exchange of views or threat perceptions, sharing of experiences, best practices and capacity building.

Resolution on early and forced marriage of children

54. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India did not sign the first-ever United Nations global resolution on early and forced marriage of children; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) No. The resolution titled 'Strengthening efforts to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage: challenges, achievements, best practices and implementation gaps' was adopted by consensus at the 24th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in September, 2013.

Discussion with USA

†55. DR. YOGENDRA P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the new and major issues discussed between India and USA during the recent visit to USA; and

(b) the other economics issues discussed during the said visit and the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh visited the United States on 26-30 September, 2013, and met with the US President Barack Obama on 27 September, 2013 in Washington, DC. The two leaders reviewed the progress in bilateral relations and exchanged views on regional and global issues of common interest. The two leaders agreed to expand defence ties including in the area of co-development and co-production of new defence systems; to expand strategic consultations; set up a Working Group on Climate Change; and to revive the India-US Task Force on Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).

(b) Prime Minister Dr. Singh and President Obama noted the progress in bilateral trade and investment and emergence of economic ties as a pillar of the strategic partnership between the two countries. They also agreed to address specific concerns among businesses on both sides. The two leaders also agreed to establish a Joint Committee on Investment in Manufacturing and expedite discussions to conclude a Bilateral Investment Treaty.

India's relation with Israel

56. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's relations with Israel have been growing rapidly; if so, the details in this regard; its likely benefits to India; and

(b) its implications on the Global situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1992, India-Israel bilateral relationship has grown steadily. India has cordial and diversified relations with Israel which are mutually beneficial. Cooperation with Israel brings benefits to India in sectors such as defence, agriculture, water management, R&D and science and technology.

(b) India's relations with Israel stand on their own and are not at the expense of strong, time-tested and historic ties with the Arab world. Notwithstanding growing ties with Israel, there has been no change in the traditional policy of strong support to the Arab and the Palestinian cause.

PMs visit to China

†57. SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the visit of the Prime Minister to China recently;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.