(b) whether the diplomatic steps and measures in support of Russia taken by Government to find a concrete solution would affect its relationship with UK and USA, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[(GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH)]: (a) Yes. The Government has been closely following developments surrounding the crisis in Ukraine. The Government frequently discusses the situation in Ukraine with global interlocutors, including from Russia. During the course of the crisis in Ukraine, the Government has made several statements clarifying its position on the issue. The Government has emphasized the need for all sides to exercise restraint and work together constructively to find political and diplomatic solutions, involving all stakeholders, to restore peace and normalcy in Ukraine and in the region. India has also expressed support for the unity and territorial integrity of all countries. The relations between India and Russia are on an upward trajectory and have a strong bilateral content, based on mutual interest, that leads to a ‘special and privileged’ strategic partnership. These time-tested relations are not affected by any individual issue or crisis.

(b) India’s relations with each global partner, including the US and the UK, stand on their own. India’s stand on the Ukraine issue is not a factor impacting these relations. Our global partners are aware of India’s publicly stated position on the Ukraine issue.

India modernizing Vietnam’s defence forces

1296. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has agreed to modernize Vietnam’s defence forces, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether both the countries have signed several agreements recently, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[(GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH)]: (a) India and Vietnam have close cooperation in the field of defence, including exchange of delegations, ship visits, capacity building and training programmes.

(b) In the field of defence, India and Vietnam have recently signed MoU on $ 100 million Line of Credit for defence procurement and MoU for establishing the Centre for English Language and Information Technology Training at the Telecommunications University in Vietnam.