

(b) the details of the work done so far in these fields?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ):

(a) and (b) India and China have a Cultural Exchange Programme and an Educational Exchange Programme. Indian Embassy Cultural Section was expanded into a full-fledged Culture Wing, which has an Indian classical dance teacher and a music teacher. We are supporting an India Studies Centre at Peking University. Year 2014 was marked as a “Year of Friendly Exchanges” by the two countries. Several cultural exchanges and activities under ‘Glimpses of India’ were organized in 2014.

During Premier Li Keqiang’s visit to India from 19-21 May, 2013, MoU on mutual translation and publication of classical and contemporary works was signed.

During Prime Minister Singh’s visit to China from 22-24 October, 2013, Programme of Cultural Exchange for the years 2013-2015 was signed.

During the visit of President Xi Jinping in September, 2014, the two sides signed the MoU to enhance cooperation between cultural institutions of the two countries to foster long-term collaboration between various cultural institutions like museums, archaeological organizations and performing art centres.

The Encyclopaedia of India-China Cultural Contacts was released in Beijing during the visit of Vice-President Shri Hamid Ansari to China from 26-30 June, 2014.

The two countries also have a programme for annual exchange of youth delegations. A 100 member Chinese youth delegation visited India in September, 2014. A 100 member Indian youth delegation is scheduled to visit China in November, 2014 under annual youth exchange programme.

Policy Planning Division in Ministry

2877. SHRI PAVAN KUMAR VARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a Policy Planning Division in the Ministry, if so, its mandate;

(b) if such a mandate exists, the assessment of its substantive output in the last two years;

(c) in particular, the number of policy papers, especially relating to our

neighbourhood, have been produced by this Division and whether this Division is appropriately manned; and

(d) its interface, if any, with area specialists in international relations outside the Ministry of External Affairs?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ):
(a) and (b) There is a Policy Planning and Research Division in the Ministry. Its mandate includes:

- (i) Publication of the Annual Report of the Ministry; preparation of Monthly Summary of important developments for the Cabinet.
- (ii) Supervision of functioning of MEA Boundary Cell, MEA Situation Room and MEA Library.
- (iii) Undertaking studies on general foreign policy issues through academic institutions; supporting the academia, think tanks, research organizations and institutes in India engaged in research and discussion on external relations and supporting them to organize Seminars, Conferences and Studies to deliberate on various facets of India's External Relations.

(c) and (d) The Division supports the Indian Council of World Affairs, which is its primary interface with specialists in international relations outside the Ministry of External Affairs. The Division also supports other institutions. Several research papers, including on our neighbourhood, have been produced through these collaborations.

The Policy Planning and Research Division is appropriately manned.

Countries visited by the Prime Minister

2878. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of countries where the Prime Minister visited this year; and
- (b) the details of the agreements signed between India and those countries, where Prime Minister visited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [(GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH)] : (a) and (b) Details as requested are given in Statement (*See below*).