

**Legal aid to Indians in jails abroad**

2817. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any mechanism to provide legal aid to Indian citizens who are facing legal proceedings or jailed in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof, country-wise; and

(c) the procedures for availing of support from such mechanism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (Retd.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) to (c) The Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF), set up by the Government of India in 2009, has been extended to all Indian Missions and Posts abroad to meet contingency expenditure incurred by them for carrying out various on-site welfare activities for overseas Indian nationals who are in distress, on a means tested basis. Indian Missions and Posts abroad are empowered to provide initial legal assistance from the ICWF to Indian nationals in deserving cases. Indian nationals in need of legal assistance may approach Indian Missions and Posts abroad in this regard.

After verification of Indian nationality of the detained/arrested person, Missions request local authorities for speedy trials; seek remission of sentence; and seek fair and humane treatment in foreign jails. Missions also request the local Government for grant of amnesty to arrested Indians. Payment is made out of ICWF, on case-to-case basis for filing review petitions or mercy petitions on behalf of the Indian prisoners.

**Countries visited by Prime Minister**

2818. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the countries visited by Hon'ble Prime Minister during the last two months;

(b) the details of the Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs), bilateral agreements pertaining to socio-economic relations, diplomatic relations, etc. entered into with each of the countries; and

(c) the prospective to strengthen the relations amongst the countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. J. AKBAR): (a) to (c) Information is given in the Statement.

***Statement****Countries visited by Prime Minister*

| Sl. No. | Countries visited in June-July, 2016 | Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs), bilateral agreements pertaining to socio-economic relations, diplomatic relations, etc. entered into | The prospective to strengthen the relations amongst the countries   |
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| 1       | 2                                    | 3   | 4   |
| 1.      | Afghanistan<br>(04 June, 2016)       | No MoU/agreement was concluded during the visit.  | The prospect of this visit to strengthen bilateral relations is immense. The inauguration of Afghan-India Friendship Dam (for which the Hon'ble PM went to Herat, Afghanistan) was very well received by the Government and more importantly, the people of Afghanistan. Afghan-India Friendship Dam is a major infrastructural asset for Afghanistan, one which will not only irrigate 80,000 hectares of land, but will also provide electricity to 250,000 households in the Herat Province of Afghanistan. The Dam will also create further opportunities for fishing and tourism industries in the region. |
| 2.      | Qatar<br>(04-05 June, 2016)          | In addition to the Joint Statement issued at the conclusion of the visit, following Agreements/MoUs were signed:                          | It was a productive visit as the entire gamut of bilateral relations was discussed by the two sides. The MoUs concluded will contribute to further strengthening bilateral relations across a wide range of sectors.  |

- (i) MoU between National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF), Ministry of Finance, Government of India and Qatar Investment Authority (QIA);
  - (ii) Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters between the Government of Republic of India and Government of the State of Qatar;
  - (iii) MoU between Financial Intelligence Unit – India (FIU-IND) and the Qatar Financial Information Unit (QFIU) concerning cooperation in the exchange of intelligence related to money laundering, terrorism-financing and related crimes;
  - (iv) MoU between the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, the Government of Republic of India and the National Qualifications Authority/Supreme Education Council, Government of the State of Qatar for Cooperation in Skill Development and Recognition of Qualifications;
  - (v) MoU on cooperation in Tourism between the
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|    |                                   | Government of the Republic of India and Government of the State of Qatar;  |  |
|    |                                   | (vi) MoU between India and Qatar for Cooperation in the field of Health the Government of the Republic of India and Government of the State of Qatar; and      |  |
|    |                                   | (vii) The First Executive Programme for MoU in the field of Youth and Sports between the Government of Republic of India and Government of the State of Qatar. |  |
| 3. | Switzerland<br>(05-06 June, 2016) | No Agreement/MoU was signed.   | Hon'ble PM held bilateral meetings with the President of the Swiss Confederation H.E. Mr. Johann Schneider-Ammann, attended a Business Round Table with Switzerland's leading companies and also had a meeting with Indian research scholars based at CERN. Hon'ble Prime Minister and the President of the Swiss Confederation discussed the entire gamut of bilateral relations and important regional and global issues of mutual interest. During the recent visit to Switzerland on 20-22 June, 2016 of MoS (I/C) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Mr. Rajiv |

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|   |   | Pratap Rudy, a MoU on bilateral cooperation in the areas of skills development and vocational education and training was signed.  |
| 4. United States of America<br>(06-08 June, 2016) | <p>The following documents were signed in the run up to the visit of Prime Minister to the US in June, 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(i) Arrangement between the Multi-Agency Centre/Intelligence Bureau of the Government of India and the Terrorist Screening Center of the Government of the United States of America for the exchange of Terrorist Screening Information;</li><li>(ii) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Government of India and the Government of the United States of America to enhance cooperation on Energy Security, Clean Energy and Climate Change;</li><li>(iii) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Government of India and Government of the United States of America to enhance co-operation on Wildlife Conservation and Combating Wildlife Trafficking;</li></ul> | <p>The United States is India's important strategic partner for achieving our developmental objectives and regional and global aspirations. Over the years, India and the US have made concerted efforts to capture the true strength and scale of our strategic, political and economic opportunities.</p> |
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|   |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(iv) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Consular, Passport and Visa Division of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and US Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security of the United States for the Development of an International Expedited Traveler Initiative (the Global Entry Programme);</li> <li>(v) Technical Arrangement between the Indian Navy and the United States Navy concerning Unclassified Maritime Information Sharing;</li> <li>(vi) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India and the Department of Energy of the United States of America for Cooperation in Gas Hydrates.</li> </ul> <p>The following documents were finalized in the run up to the visit of Prime Minister to the US in June, 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Information Exchange Annex (IEA) between the Ministry of Defence, Government of</li> </ul> |   |

India and the Department of Defense of the United States of America to the Master Information Exchange Agreement concerning Aircraft Carrier Technologies (*it has also been signed later*); and

- (ii) Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement between the Ministry of Defence, Government of India and the Department of Defense of the United States of America

5. Mexico (08 June, 2016) A Joint Statement was signed. No Agreement/MoU was signed.
- It was a productive visit as the entire gamut of bilateral relations was discussed by the two sides. Mexico strongly supported India's application for membership of NSG at Plenary meeting at Seoul on 23 June, 2016. Following follow up meetings have been held in July, 2016 following the visit:
- (i) 4th Bilateral High Level Group on Trade and Investment Meeting: 13-14 July, 2016;
  - (ii) Workshop on Space Cooperation: 13-15 July, 2016; and
  - (iii) Sixth Joint Committee on Science and Technology: 18-19 July, 2016.
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| 6.  | Uzbekistan<br>(23-24 June, 2016)<br>(SCO Summit) | No country specific MoU/Agreement signed during the visit. However, as per the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation membership process, Memorandum of Obligation signed.  | —   |
| 7.  | Mozambique<br>(07 July, 2016)                    | <p>(i) MoU between India and Mozambique on drug demand reduction and prevention of illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals and related matters.</p> <p>(ii) MoU between Government of India and Government of Mozambique in the field of Youth Affairs and Sports.</p> <p>(iii) Long-term agreement for purchase of pulses from Mozambique.</p> | The visit facilitated deepening of bilateral engagement in areas such as agriculture, trade and investment, defence and security.   |
| 8.. | South Africa<br>(07-09 July, 2016)               | <p>(i) MoU on ICT.</p> <p>(ii) Programme of Cooperation in Arts and Culture.</p> <p>(iii) MoU on Tourism.</p> <p>(iv) MoU on Grass Root Innovation (S&amp;T).</p>  | During the visit the following sectors were identified to further intensify collaboration-defence, energy, agro-processing, human resource development, infrastructure development as well as science, technology and innovation. |



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| 9. Tanzania<br>(09-10 July, 2016) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) MoU on Cooperation in the field of water resource management and development between the two countries.</li> <li>(ii) MoU on Visa waiver agreement for Diplomatic/Official passport holders between the two countries.</li> <li>(iii) MoU between the Government of Tanzania and the Government of India for Establishment of Vocational Training Centre at Zanzibar.</li> <li>(iv) LOC of US\$ 92 million for rehabilitation and improvement of water supply system in Zanzibar</li> </ul> | <p>It was agreed during the visit to broaden cooperation to include potential areas such as water resources, development of small scale industries for rural developmental, gas exploration and usage, agriculture especially in crops like pulses, mining and information technology.</p> |
| 10. Kenya<br>(10-11 July, 2016)   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Revised Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA).</li> <li>(ii) Bilateral agreement on exemption of Visa for holders of Diplomatic passports.</li> <li>(iii) MoU on Defence Cooperation.</li> <li>(iv) MoU on Cooperation in the field of standardisation, expertise sharing and mutual trade between Bureau of Indian Standards and Bureau of Kenya Standards.</li> </ul>  | <p>It was agreed during the visit to reinvigorate bilateral collaboration and explore new areas with a view to further intensify cooperation on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues and to impart a fresh momentum to cooperation in all areas of mutual interest.</p>             |

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|   |   | (v) MoU on Cooperation in the field of National Housing Policy Development and Management.   |   |
|   |   | (vi) Line of Credit Agreement for US\$ 15 million (first tranche of US\$ 30 million) to IDB Capital Limited, Kenya, for development of various Small and Medium Enterprises [SMEs] in Kenya. |   |
|   |   | (vii) Line of Credit Agreement for US\$ 29.95 million to the Government of Kenya for upgrade of Rift Valley Textiles Factory [RIVATEX East Africa Limited], Kenya.                           |   |