

the UN Sustainable Development Summit in September 2015, and the addresses to the UNGA by External Affairs Minister during the 70th, 71st and 72nd sessions of the UNGA in 2015, 2016 and 2017 respectively. A World Hindi Secretariat has been set up in Mauritius in February 2008 to promote Hindi as an international language. Efforts to propagate Hindi worldwide are also being made by our Diplomatic Missions abroad in coordination with Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) through activities such as establishment of Chairs of Hindi language in several universities abroad, scholarship and fellowships to foreign students to study Hindi, internationally distributed publication such as “Gagnanchal”, and holding of various types of international conferences pertaining to Hindi.

In FY 2017-18, ₹ 5 cores was allocated for efforts to propagate Hindi worldwide through our Diplomatic Missions and Posts abroad. Allocations for this purpose over the last three years were: ₹ 3 crore (2014-15); ₹ 3 crore (2015-16) and ₹ 4.99 crore (2016-17).

Media persons accompanying Prime Minister on foreign visits

1451. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding the names of journalists/reporters/media persons who accompanied the Prime Minister during his visits to various countries during 2014-15 to 2016-17; and

(b) the total expenditure incurred on such media groups during that period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (GENERAL RETD. V. K. SINGH): (a) Lists containing names and details of journalists/reporters/media persons who accompanied Hon'ble PM during his visit to various countries in 2014-15 to 2016-17 are given in the Statement.

(b) No expenditure was incurred by the Ministry in respect of media delegates travelling with the Prime Minister.

Statement

Details of journalists/reporters/media persons who accompanied Hon'ble Prime Minister during his visit to various countries in 2014-15 to 2016-17

List of media accompanying Prime Minister to Bhutan (June 15-16, 2014)

1. Shri Ajay Kumar Kaul, Chief of Bureau, PTI
2. Shri Sunil Kumar Shukla, Assistant Director/Senior Correspondent, AIR
3. Shri Manjit Thakur, Senior Correspondent, Doordarshan

4. Shri Mohammed Nafeesur Rehan Fazil, Cameraman, Doordarshan
5. Shri Radhey Shyam, Chief Cameraman, Films Division
6. Shri Brij Mohan Meena, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
7. Shri Ram Pratap, Cameraperson, ANI
8. Shri Atul Yadav, Photojournalist, PTI

List of Media accompanying Prime Minister to Brazil (July 13 – 16, 2014)

1. Shri Merajuddin Khan, Correspondent, AIR
2. Shri Sudhir Kumar, Senior Correspondent, Doordarshan
3. Shri Anil Khanna, Cameraman, Doordarshan
4. Shri Mukundan Asokan, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
5. Shri Chandrasekar Vanakambadi Sundararaman, Executive Editor, PTI
6. Shri Subhav Shukla, Photographer, PTI
7. Ms. Naz Asghar, Special Correspondent, UNI
8. Shri Ajay Kumar Sharma, Senior Cameraman, ANI.

List of Media persons accompanying Prime Minister to Nepal (August 3-4, 2014)

1. Shri Ajay Kumar Kaul, Chief of Bureau, PTI
2. Shri Ashok Upadhyay, Deputy Bureau Chief, UN
3. Shri Merajuddin Khan, Correspondent, AIR
4. Shri Sudhakar Das, Correspondent, Doordarshan
5. Shri I.P.S. Ahluwalia, Cameraman, Doordarshan
6. Shri Shivraj, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
7. Shri Ajay Kumar Sharma, Senior Cameraman, ANI
8. Shri Vijay Verma, Principal Photo Journalist, PTI

List of Media persons accompanying Prime Minister to Japan (August 30 – September 03, 2014)

1. Shri Manas Pratim Sarma, News Editor, AIR
2. Shri Manjit Thakur, Correspondent, DD
3. Ms. Rajagopala Jayashree Puri, Cameraperson, DD News
4. Shri Brij Mohan Meena, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
5. Shri Ajay Kumar Kaul, Chief of Bureau, PTI
6. Shri Atul Yadav, Photojournalist, PTI

7. Shri Ajay Kumar Sharma, Senior Cameraman, ANI
8. Shri Jai Prakash Awasthi, Bureau Chief, UNI

**List of Media persons accompanying Prime Minister to USA
(September 26-30, 2014)**

1. Ms. Pushpinder Kaur, Joint Director, AIR
2. Shri Sudhakar Das, Sr. Correspondent, Doordarshan
3. Shri Soban Singh, Cameraperson, Doordarshan
4. Shri Mukundan Asokan, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
5. Shri Shivraj, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
6. Ms Priyanka Tikoo, Associate Editor & Joint Chief of Bureau, PTI
7. Shri Vijay Verma, Principal Photo Journalist, PTI
8. Shri Ashok Tuteja, Editor, UNI
9. Shri Sarwan Kumar Chaudhary, Cameraman, ANI

**List of Media persons accompanying Prime Minister to Myanmar
(November 11-13, 2014)**

1. Shri Sant Bahadur, Correspondent, AIR
2. Shri Ravi Dhiman, Senior Correspondent, DD
3. Shri Anil Khanna, Cameraman, DD
4. Shri G. Sudhakar, Nair Editor, PTI
5. Shri Kamal Singh, Cameraman, PTI
6. Shri Ajay Kumar Sharma, Cameraman, ANI
7. Shri M. Asokan, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
8. Shri Shivraj, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
9. Shri Mukesh Kaushik, Special Correspondent, UNI

**List of Media persons accompanying Prime Minister to Australia
(November 14-18, 2014)**

1. Shri Sant Bahadur, Correspondent, AIR
2. Shri Ravi Dhiman, Senior Correspondent, DD
3. Shri Anil Khanna, Cameraman, DD
4. Shri G. Sudhakar, Nair Editor, PTI
5. Shri Kamal Singh, Cameraman, PTI
6. Shri Ajay Kumar Sharma, Cameraman, ANI

7. Shri M. Asokan, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
8. Shri Shivraj, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
9. Shri Mukesh Kaushik, Special Correspondent, UNI

**List of Media persons accompanying Prime Minister to Fiji
(November 19, 2014)**

1. Shri Sant Bahadur, Correspondent, AIR
2. Shri Ravi Dhiman, Senior Correspondent, DD
3. Shri Anil Khanna, Cameraman, DD
4. Shri G. Sudhakar, Nair Editor, PTI
5. Shri Kamal Singh, Cameraman, PTI
6. Shri Ajay Kumar Sharma, Cameraman, ANI
7. Shri M. Asokan, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
8. Shri Shivraj, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
9. Shri Mukesh Kaushik, Special Correspondent, UNI

**List of media delegates accompanied Prime Minister to Nepal
(November 25-27, 2014)**

1. Ms. Priyanka Tikoo, Editor and Bureau Chief, PTI
2. Shri Asish Maitra, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
3. Shri Indupal Singh Ahluwalia, Camera Person, DD News
4. Shri Krishna Kant Uniyal, Special Correspondent, UNI
5. Shri Manjit Thakur, Correspondent, DD News
6. Shri Rajesh Chander Bali, Correspondent, AIR
7. Shri Ram Pratap, Cameraman, ANI
8. Shri Shivraj, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
9. Shri Subhav Shukla, Senior Photo Journalist, PTI

*Names are given in alphabetical order.

**List of Media Delegates Accompanied Prime Minister to Mauritius,
Seychelles and Sri Lanka (March 10-14, 2015)**

1. Shri Sunil Kumar Shukla, Assistant Director, AIR
2. Shri Sudhir Kumar, Senior Correspondent, DD

3. Ms. Rajagopala Jayashree Puri, Cameraperson, DD
4. Shri Sanjay Saini, Senior Technician, DD
5. Shri Mukundan Asokan, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
6. Shri Brij Mohan Meena, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
7. Shri Gangadhar Sudhakar Nair, Deputy Executive Editor, PTI
8. Shri Kamal Kishore Kamboj, Sr. Photojournalist, PTI
9. Ms. Smita Prakash, Editor (News), ANI
10. Shri Raj Kumar Atal, Senior Video Journalist, ANI
11. Ms. Naz Asghar, Special Correspondent, UNI

List of Onboard Media 2015-2016**List of Media Delegates Accompanied Prime Minister to France, Germany and Canada (April 09-17, 2015)**

1. Shri Rabindra Nath Mishra, Additional Director General, AIR
2. Shri Sudhakar Das, Senior Correspondent, Doordarshan
3. Shri Soban Singh, Cameraperson, Doordarshan
4. Shri Sanjay Saini, Senior Technician, Doordarshan
5. Shri Mukundan Asokan, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
6. Shri Shivraj, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
7. Shri Ajay Kumar Kaul, Editor, PTI
8. Shri Subhash Chander Malhotra, Senior Photo Editor, PTI
9. Shri Ashok Upadhyay, Deputy Chief of Bureau, UNI
10. Smt. Smita Prakash, Editor, UNI
11. Shri Ram Pratap, Cameraperson, ANI

List of Media delegates accompanied PM to China, Mongolia and Republic of Korea (May 13-19, 2015)

1. Shri Rajeev Kumar Jain, Director (News), AIR
2. Shri Arun Anand Sharma, Senior Correspondent, DD News
3. Shri Indu Pal Singh Ahluwalia, Senior Cameraperson, DD News
4. Shri Brij Mohan Meena, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
5. Shri Shivraj, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
6. Shri Venky Mohan Narayan, Editor, PTI

7. Shri Shahbaz Khan, Principal Photo Journalist, PTI
8. Shri Mukesh Kaushik, Special Correspondent, UNI
9. Shri Ajay Kumar Sharma, Senior Cameraman, ANI

List of media delegates accompanied Prime Minister on his visit to Bangladesh (June 06-07)

1. Shri Manas Pratim Sharma, News Editor, AIR
2. Shri Sudhakar Das, Senior Correspondent, DD News
3. Shri Anil Khanna, Cameraman, DD News
4. Shri Sanjay Saini, Sr. Technician, DD
5. Shri Brij Mohan Meena, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
6. Shri M. Asokan, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
7. Shri Shirish Ganesh Shete, Chief Photographer, PTI
8. Shri Sarwan Kumar Choudhary, Cameraman ANI

List of Media delegates accompanying Prime Minister on his visit to Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Russia, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan (July 6-13, 2015)

1. Shri Yogesh Balwantray Pandya, Correspondent, AIR
2. Shri Sudhir Kumar, Senior Correspondent, DD News
3. Shri Soban Singh, Cameraman, DD News
4. Shri Sanjay Saini, Senior Technician, DD
5. Shri Shivraj, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
6. Shri Mukundan Asokan, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
7. Shri Manvender Vashist, Photojournalist, PTI
8. Shri Ajay Kumar Sharma, Senior Cameraman, ANI

List of Media delegates accompanying Prime Minister during his visit to UAE (Abu Dhabi and Dubai) August 16-17, 2015

1. Shri Sant Bahadur, Correspondent, AIR
2. Shri Arun Anand Sharma, Senior Correspondent, DD News
3. Ms. Rajagopala Jayashree Puri, Cameraperson, DD News
4. Shri Brij Mohan Meena, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
5. Shri Mukundan Asokan, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
6. Shri Atul Yadav, Senior Photo Journalist, PTI

7. Shri Ajay Kumar Sharma, Senior Cameraman, ANI

The list of media delegates who accompanied PM to Ireland and USA (Sept 23-28 2015)

1. Shri Rajeev Kumar Jain, Director (News),AIR
2. Shri Sudhakar Das, Senior Correspondent, DDNews
3. Ms. Rajagopala Jayashree Puri, Cameraperson,DD
4. Shri Sanjay Saini, Senior Technician,DD
5. Shri Brij Mohan Meena, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
6. Shri Mukundan Asokan, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
7. Shri Subhav Shukla, Senior Photo Journalist,PTI
8. Shri Ajay Kumar Sharma, Senior Cameraman,ANI

List of Media delegates accompanying Prime Minister during his visit to UK and Turkey (November 12-16, 2015)

1. Shri Sanjay Pratap Singh, Correspondent, AIR
2. Shri SudhirKumar, Senior Correspondent, DD
3. Shri S. Jaishanker, Cameraperson, DD News
4. Shri Sanjay Saini, Senior Technician, DD News
5. Shri Shivraj, PhotographicOfficer,Photo Division
6. Shri Mukundan Asokan, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
7. Shri Vijay Verma, Principal Photo Journalist, PTI
8. Shri Ajay Kumar Sharma, Senior Cameraman,

List of Media Delegates accompanied During Visit of PM to Malaysia (Nov 21-23, 2015)

1. Shri Krishna Kumar Lal, Correspondent, AIR
2. Shri Arun Anand Sharma, Senior Correspondent, DD
3. Shri Praveen Johar, Cameraperson, DD
4. Shri Sanjay Saini, Senior Technician, DD News
5. Shri Shivraj, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
6. Shri Mukundan Asokan, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
7. Shri Kamal Singh Gosain, Cameraman, PTI
8. Shri Ajay Kumar Sharma, Senior Cameraman, ANI

List of Media Delegates accompanied During Visit of PM to Singapore (Nov 23-24, 2015)

1. Shri Krishna Kumar Lal, Correspondent, AIR
2. Shri Arun Anand Sharma, Senior Correspondent, DD
3. Shri Praveen Johar, Cameraperson, DD
4. Shri Sanjay Saini, Senior Technician, DD News
5. Shri Shivraj, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
6. Shri Mukundan Asokan, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
7. Shri Kamal Singh Gosain, Cameraman, PTI
8. Shri Ajay Kumar Sharma, Senior Cameraman, ANI

List of Media Delegates who accompanied during visit of PM to Paris, France for UNFCCC (Nov 29-30, 2015)

1. Shri Pankaj Pandey, Director (News), AIR
2. Shri Sudhakar Das, Senior Correspondent, DD
3. Ms. Rajagopala Jayashree Puri, Cameraperson, DD
4. Shri Sanjay Saini, Senior Technician, DD News
5. Shri Shivraj, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
6. Shri Mukundan Asokan, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
7. Shri Atul Yadav, Senior Photojournalist, PTI
8. Shri Ajay Kumar Sharma, Senior Cameraman, ANI

PM's visit to Russia, Afghanistan and Pakistan (Dec. 23-25, 2015)

1. Shri Sant Bahadur, Correspondent, AIR
2. Shri Arun Anand Sharma, Senior Correspondent, DD News
3. Shri Anil Khanna, Cameraperson, DD News
4. Shri Sanjay Saini, Senior Technician, DD
5. Shri Shivraj, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
6. Shri Brij Mohan Meena, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
7. Shri Shahbaz Khan, Principal Photo Journalist, PTI
8. Shri Ajay Kumar Sharma, Senior Cameraman, ANI

List of Onboard Media 2016-2017**List of Media Delegates Accompanied Prime Minister During his visit to Belgium (March 30, 2016)**

1. Mr. Manas Pratim Sarma, Correspondent, AIR
2. Mr. Sudhir Kumar, Sr. Correspondent, DD News
3. Mr. Soban Singh, Cameraperson, DD News
4. Mr. Sanjay Saini, Senior Technician, DD News
5. Mr. Mukundan Asokan, Cameraperson, Photo Division
6. Mr. Brij Mohan Meena, Cameraperson, Photo Division
7. Mr. Shirish Ganesh Shete, Chief Photo Journalist, PTI
8. Mr. Ajay Kumar Sharma, Senior Cameraman, ANI

List of Media Delegates Accompanied Prime Minister During his visit to USA (March 31 – April 1, 2016)

1. Mr. Manas Pratim Sarma, Correspondent, AIR
2. Mr. Sudhir Kumar, Sr. Correspondent, DD News
3. Mr. Soban Singh, Cameraperson, DD News
4. Mr. Sanjay Saini, Senior Technician, DD News
5. Mr. Mukundan Asokan, Cameraperson, Photo Division
6. Mr. Brij Mohan Meena, Cameraperson, Photo Division
7. Mr. Shirish Ganesh Shete, Chief Photo Journalist, PTI
8. Mr. Ajay Kumar Sharma, Senior Cameraman, ANI

List of Media Delegates Accompanied Prime Minister During his visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (April 2-3, 2016)

1. Mr. Manas Pratim Sarma, Correspondent, AIR
2. Mr. Sudhir Kumar, Sr. Correspondent, DD News
3. Mr. Soban Singh, Cameraperson, DD News
4. Mr. Sanjay Saini, Senior Technician, DD News
5. Mr. Mukundan Asokan, Cameraperson, Photo Division
6. Mr. Brij Mohan Meena, Cameraperson, Photo Division
7. Mr. Shirish Ganesh Shete, Chief Photo Journalist, PTI
8. Mr. Ajay Kumar Sharma, Senior Cameraman, ANI

List of Media Delegates Accompanied Prime Minister During his visit to Iran (May 22-23, 2016)

1. Ms. Shiela Rani, Correspondent, AIR
2. Mr. Sudhakar Das, Senior Correspondent, DD News
3. Mr. Anil Khanna, Cameraperson, DD News
4. Mr. Sanjay Saini, Senior Technician, DD
5. Mr. Shivraj, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
6. Mr. Brij Mohan Meena, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
7. Mr. Shahbaz Khan, Principal Photo Journalist, PTI
8. Mr. Ajay Kumar Sharma, Senior Cameraman, ANI

List of media Delegates accompanied Hon'ble PM to Afghanistan (June 04, 2016)

1. Mr. Sant Bahadur, Deputy Director, AIR
2. Mr. Arun Anand Sharma, Senior Correspondent, DD News
3. Mr. Praveen Johar, Cameraperson, DD
4. Ms. Sanjay Saini, Senior Technician, DD
5. Mr. Shivraj, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
6. Mr. Brij Mohan Meena, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
7. Mr. Kamal Kishore Kamboj, Senior Photographer, PTI
8. Mr. Ajay Kumar Sharma, Senior Cameraman, ANI

List of media Delegates accompanied Hon'ble PM to Qatar (June 04-05, 2016)

1. Mr. Sant Bahadur, Deputy Director, AIR
2. Mr. Arun Anand Sharma, Senior Correspondent, DD News
3. Mr. Praveen Johar, Cameraperson, DD
4. Ms. Sanjay Saini, Senior Technician, DD
5. Mr. Shivraj, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
6. Mr. Brij Mohan Meena, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
7. Mr. Kamal Kishore Kamboj, Senior Photographer, PTI
8. Mr. Ajay Kumar Sharma, Senior Cameraman, ANI

List of media Delegates accompanied Hon'ble PM to Switzerland (June 5-6, 2016)

1. Mr. Sant Bahadur, Deputy Director, AIR

2. Mr. Arun Anand Sharma, Senior Correspondent, DD News
3. Mr. Praveen Johar, Cameraperson, DD
4. Ms. Sanjay Saini, Senior Technician, DD
5. Mr. Shivraj, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
6. Mr. Brij Mohan Meena, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
7. Mr. Kamal Kishore Kamboj, Senior Photographer, PTI
8. Mr. Ajay Kumar Sharma, Senior Cameraman, ANI

**List of media Delegates accompanied Hon'ble PM to USA
(June 6-8, 2016)**

1. Mr. Sant Bahadur, Deputy Director, AIR
2. Mr. Arun Anand Sharma, Senior Correspondent, DD News
3. Mr. Praveen Johar, Cameraperson, DD
4. Ms. Sanjay Saini, Senior Technician, DD
5. Mr. Shivraj, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
6. Mr. Brij Mohan Meena, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
7. Mr. Kamal Kishore Kamboj, Senior Photographer, PTI
8. Mr. Ajay Kumar Sharma, Senior Cameraman, ANI

**List of media Delegates accompanied Hon'ble PM to Mexico
(June 08, 2016)**

1. Mr. Sant Bahadur, Deputy Director, AIR
2. Mr. Arun Anand Sharma, Senior Correspondent, DD News
3. Mr. Praveen Johar, Cameraperson, DD
4. Ms. Sanjay Saini, Senior Technician, DD
5. Mr. Shivraj, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
6. Mr. Brij Mohan Meena, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
7. Mr. Kamal Kishore Kamboj, Senior Photographer, PTI
8. Mr. Ajay Kumar Sharma, Senior Cameraman, ANI

**List of media Delegates accompanied Hon'ble PM to Uzbekistan
(June 23-24, 2016)**

1. Ms. Joy Selvaraj, News Editor, AIR
2. Mr. Sudhakar Das, Senior Correspondent, DD News
3. Ms. Rajagopala Jayashree Puri, Cameraperson, DD News

4. Mr. Shiv Raj, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
5. Mr. Brij Mohan Meena, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
6. Mr. Subhav Shukla, Sr. Photographer, PTI
7. Mr. Ajay Kumar Sharma, Senior Cameraman, ANI

**List of media Delegates accompanied Hon'ble PM to Mozambique
(July 07, 2016)**

1. Mr. Rajesh Kumar Jha, Director (News), AIR
2. Mr. Sudhir Kumar, Senior Correspondent, DD News
3. Mr. Soban Singh, Cameraperson, DD News
4. Mr. Mukundan Asokan, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
5. Mr. Kamal Singh Gosain, Principal Photo Journalist, PTI
6. Mr. Ajay Kumar Sharma, Senior Cameraman, ANI

**List of media Delegates accompanied Hon'ble PM to South Africa
(July 07 to 09, 2016)**

1. Mr. Rajesh Kumar Jha, Director (News), AIR
2. Mr. Sudhir Kumar, Senior Correspondent, DD News
3. Mr. Soban Singh, Cameraperson, DD News
4. Mr. Mukundan Asokan, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
5. Mr. Kamal Singh Gosain, Principal Photo Journalist, PTI
6. Mr. Ajay Kumar Sharma, Senior Cameraman, ANI

**List of media Delegates accompanied Hon'ble PM to Tanzania
(July 09-10, 2016)**

1. Mr. Rajesh Kumar Jha, Director (News), AIR
2. Mr. Sudhir Kumar, Senior Correspondent, DD News
3. Mr. Soban Singh, Cameraperson, DD News
4. Mr. Mukundan Asokan, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
5. Mr. Kamal Singh Gosain, Principal Photo Journalist, PTI
6. Mr. Ajay Kumar Sharma, Senior Cameraman, ANI

**List of media Delegates accompanied Hon'ble PM to Kenya
(July 10-11, 2016)**

1. Mr. Rajesh Kumar Jha, Director (News), AIR
2. Mr. Sudhir Kumar, Senior Correspondent, DD News

3. Mr. Soban Singh, Cameraperson, DD News
4. Mr. Mukundan Asokan, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
5. Mr. Kamal Singh Gosain, Principal Photo Journalist, PTI
6. Mr. Ajay Kumar Sharma, Senior Cameraman, ANI

**List of Media Delegates Accompanied Prime Minister During his visit to China
(September 03-05, 2016)**

1. Mr. Rajeev Kumar Jain, Director, AIR
2. Mr. Arun Anand Sharma, Senior Correspondent, DD News
3. Mr. Anil Khanna, Cameraperson, DD News
4. Mr. Shiv Raj, Photographic Officer, Photo division
5. Mr. Lalit Kumar, Cameraperson, News Point
6. Mr. Vijay Verma, Cameraperson, PTI
7. Mr. Ajay Kumar Sharma, Senior Video Cameraman, ANI

**List of Media Delegates Accompanied Prime Minister During his visit to
Vietnam (September 02-03, 2016)**

1. Mr. Rajeev Kumar Jain, Director, AIR
2. Mr. Arun Anand Sharma, Senior Correspondent, DD News
3. Mr. Anil Khanna, Cameraperson, DD News
4. Mr. Shiv Raj, Photographic Officer, Photo division
5. Mr. Lalit Kumar, Cameraperson, News Point
6. Mr. Vijay Verma, Cameraperson, PTI
7. Mr. Ajay Kumar Sharma, Senior Video Cameraman, ANI

**List of Media Delegates Accompanied Prime Minister During his visit to Lao
PDR (September 07-08, 2016)**

1. Mr. Rajeev Kumar Jain, Director, AIR
2. Mr. Arun Anand Sharma, Senior Correspondent, DD News
3. Mr. Anil Khanna, Cameraperson, DD News
4. Mr. Shiv Raj, Photographic Officer, Photo division
5. Mr. Lalit Kumar, Cameraperson, News Point
6. Mr. Vijay Verma, Cameraperson, PTI
7. Mr. Ajay Kumar Sharma, Senior Video Cameraman, ANI

List of Media delegates of the Visit of Prime Minister to Thailand and Japan (November 10-12, 2016)

1. Mr. Sant Bahadur, Assistant Director, AIR
2. Mr. Arun Anand Sharma, Sr. Correspondent, DD News
3. Mr. Soban Singh, Cameraperson, DD News
4. Mr. Brij Mohan Meena, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
5. Mr. Lalit Kumar, Official Cameraperson, News Point
6. Mr. Shirish Ganesh Shete, Chief Photographer, PTI
7. Mr. Ajay Kumar Sharma, Senior Video Cameraperson, ANI

List of Media delegates of the Visit of Prime Minister to Sri Lanka (May 11-12, 2017)

1. Mr. Sant Bahadur, Assistant Director, AIR
2. Mr. Sudhakar Das, Sr. Correspondent, DD News
3. Mr. Anil Khanna, Cameraperson, DD News
4. Mr. Shiv Raj, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
5. Mr. Lalit Kumar, Official Cameraperson, News Point
6. Mr. Ajay Kumar Sharma, Senior Video Cameraperson, ANI

List of Media delegates of the Visits of Prime Minister to Germany (May 29-30, 2017)

1. Mr. Manas Pratim Sarma, Correspondent, AIR
2. Mr. Sudhir Kumar, Sr. Correspondent, DD News
3. Mr. Soban Singh, Cameraperson, DD News
4. Mr. Shiv Raj, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
5. Mr. Lalit Kumar, Official Cameraperson, News Point
6. Mr. Ajay Kumar Sharma, Senior Video Cameraperson, ANI

List of Media delegates of the Visits of Prime Minister to Spain (May 30-31, 2017)

1. Mr. Manas Pratim Sarma, Correspondent, AIR
2. Mr. Sudhir Kumar, Sr. Correspondent, DD News
3. Mr. Soban Singh, Cameraperson, DD News
4. Mr. Shiv Raj, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
5. Mr. Lalit Kumar, Official Cameraperson, News Point

6. Mr. Ajay Kumar Sharma, Senior Video Cameraperson, ANI

**List of Media delegates of the Visits of Prime Minister to Russia
(June 1-2, 2017)**

1. Mr. Manas Pratim Sarma, Correspondent, AIR
2. Mr. Sudhir Kumar, Sr. Correspondent, DD News
3. Mr. Soban Singh, Cameraperson, DD News
4. Mr. Shiv Raj, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
5. Mr. Lalit Kumar, Official Cameraperson, News Point
6. Mr. Ajay Kumar Sharma, Senior Video Cameraperson, ANI

**List of Media delegates of the Visits of Prime Minister to France
(June 2-3, 2017)**

1. Mr. Manas Pratim Sarma, Correspondent, AIR
2. Mr. Sudhir Kumar, Sr. Correspondent, DD News
3. Mr. Soban Singh, Cameraperson, DD News
4. Mr. Shiv Raj, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
5. Mr. Lalit Kumar, Official Cameraperson, News Point
6. Mr. Ajay Kumar Sharma, Senior Video Cameraperson, ANI

**List of Media delegates of the Visit of Prime Minister to Kazakhstan
(8-9 June, 2017)**

1. Mr. Souvagya Kar, Assistant Director, AIR
2. Mr. Arun Anand Sharma, Sr. Correspondent, DD News
3. Mr. I.P.S. Ahluwalia, Cameraperson, DD News
4. Mr. Brij Mohan Meena, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
5. Mr. Lalit Kumar, Official Cameraperson, News Point
6. Mr. Ajay Kumar Sharma, Senior Video Cameraperson, ANI

**List of Media delegates of the Visits of Prime Minister to Portugal
(June 24, 2017)**

1. Mr. Rajeev Kumar Jain, ADG (News), AIR
2. Mr. Sudhir Kumar, Sr. Correspondent, DD News
3. Mr. Y.K. Loknath, Cameraperson, DD News
4. Mr. Shiv Raj, Photographic Officer, Photo Division

5. Mr. Lalit Kumar, Official Cameraperson, News Point
6. Mr. Ajay Kumar Sharma, Senior Video Cameraperson, ANI

**List of Media delegates of the Visits of Prime Minister to USA
(June 25-26, 2017)**

1. Mr. Rajeev Kumar Jain, ADG (News), AIR
2. Mr. Sudhir Kumar, Sr. Correspondent, DD News
3. Mr. Y.K. Loknath, Cameraperson, DD News
4. Mr. Shiv Raj, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
5. Mr. Lalit Kumar, Official Cameraperson, News Point
6. Mr. Ajay Kumar Sharma, Senior Video Cameraperson, ANI

**List of Media delegates of the Visits of Prime Minister to Netherlands
(June 27, 2017)**

1. Mr. Rajeev Kumar Jain, ADG (News), AIR
2. Mr. Sudhir Kumar, Sr. Correspondent, DD News
3. Mr. Y.K. Loknath, Cameraperson, DD News
4. Mr. Shiv Raj, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
5. Mr. Lalit Kumar, Official Cameraperson, News Point
6. Mr. Ajay Kumar Sharma, Senior Video Cameraperson, ANI

**List of Media delegates of the Visit of Prime Minister to Germany
(July 6-8, 2017)**

1. Mr. Rajesh Jha, Director (News), AIR
2. Mr. Sudhakar Das, Sr. Correspondent, DD News
3. Mr. Anil Khanna, Cameraperson, DD News
4. Mr. Mukundan Asokan, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
5. Mr. Lalit Kumar, Official Cameraperson, News Point
6. Mr. Ajay Kumar Sharma, Senior Video Cameraperson, ANI

**List of Media delegates of the Visit of Prime Minister to Israel
(July 4-6, 2017)**

1. Mr. Rajesh Jha, Director (News), AIR
2. Mr. Sudhakar Das, Sr. Correspondent, DD News
3. Mr. Anil Khanna, Cameraperson, DD News

4. Mr. Mukundan Asokan, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
5. Mr. Lalit Kumar, Official Cameraperson, News Point
6. Mr. Ajay Kumar Sharma, Senior Video Cameraperson, ANI

List of Media delegates accompanied Prime Minister during his visit to China for BRICS-2017 and Myanmar (September 3-7, 2017)

1. Mr. Sant Bahadur, Deputy Director (News), AIR
2. Mr. Arun Anand Sharma, Sr. Correspondent, DD News
3. Mr. Praveen Johar, Official Video Cameraperson, DD News
4. Mr. Brij Mohan Meena, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
5. Mr. Lalit Kumar, Official Cameraperson, News Point
6. Mr. Ajay Kumar Sharma, Senior Video Cameraperson, ANI

List of Media delegates for the Visit of Prime Minister to Manila (Philippines) (November 12-14, 2017)

1. Ms. Devpreet Singh, Director (News), AIR
2. Mr. Sudhir Kumar, Sr. Correspondent, DD News
3. Mr. IPS Ahluwalia, Official Video Cameraperson, DD News
4. Mr. Shiv Raj, Photographic Officer, Photo Division
5. Mr. Lalit Kumar, Official Cameraperson, DD News
6. Mr. Ajay Kumar Sharma, Senior Video Cameraperson, ANI

Indian involvement in Afghanistan

1452. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the President of USA has called for greater Indian involvement in Afghanistan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether USA has requested India to deploy troops in Afghanistan; and
- (d) if so, Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (GENERAL RETD. V. K. SINGH): (a) to (d) In his speech on August 21, 2017, the President of the United States of America, inter-alia, stated, "We appreciate India's important contributions to stability in Afghanistan". He further added that the United