

**Dissemination of information on foreign affairs**

2886. SHRI MANISH GUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has an established mechanism for the collation and dissemination of information on foreign affairs/issues for the public and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether there has been a decline in the number of white papers and position papers drawn up by the Ministry for public consumption and if so, details thereof; and

(c) the details of roles envisaged by the Ministry for Indian communities abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, the Ministry has an established mechanism to engage with the public on information of foreign affairs. The Official Spokesperson conducts a weekly press briefing to familiarise the public with India's positions on current matters of concern. The Ministry also maintains its web portal [www.mea.gov.in](http://www.mea.gov.in) and other social media platforms to disseminate information related to developments in the foreign policy/relations domain. The Ministry utilizes publications, documentaries/films and programmes like SAMEEP (Students and MEA Engagement Programme) and Videsh Aaya Pradesh Ke Dwaar (Regional Media engagement programme) to enhance its outreach among the public

(c) The Government has brought about a transformational change in its engagement with the Indian diaspora. The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention, PBD Conferences, Regional PBDs, Youth PBD, Know India Programme, Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children, Bharat Ko Jaaniye Quiz are some of the important programmes undertaken by the Government to strengthen diaspora's connect and engagement with India. Government's efforts are also aimed at harnessing the diaspora for supporting ongoing flagship programmes viz Swachh Bharat Mission, National Mission for Clean Ganga, Make in India, Digital India, Skill India, Start-up India, Stand-up India.

**Bilateral relations with Maldives**

2887. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the visit of the Prime Minister to Maldives was aimed at giving a push to the bilateral relations between the two countries.