

(a) whether it is a fact that the interests of India are being overlooked continuously by Malaysia and Turkey and these countries are continuously speaking against the interests of India on international fora;

(b) whether it is also a fact that imports from Malaysia has continuously increased;

(c) the steps being taken by Government in view of over-looking of interests of India by Malaysia; and

(d) the main reason responsible for widening gulf between India and neighbouring country like Malaysia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) and (c) India's relations with Malaysia and Turkey have traditionally been cordial, underpinned by growing economic engagements.

Any issue that may arise between India and these countries will be resolved bilaterally and Government of India has always urged our partners including Malaysia and Turkey to respect India's sovereignty and territorial integrity; and develop proper understanding of the concerned issue.

(b) Bilateral trade between India and Malaysia has been growing over the years. The trade figures for last four years are given below:—

(in US & Bn)

Trade/Year	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Export to Malaysia	3.70	5.22	5.70	6.43
Import from Malaysia	9.08	8.93	9.01	10.81
TOTAL TRADE	12.78	14.15	14.71	17.24

(d) Does not arise.

Increasing the sectors under MPLADS fund

1960. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to increase the areas and sectors under MPLADS funds;

(b) if so, the complete details in this regard;

(c) whether Government has received certain suggestions for increase of MPLADS funds of Members of Parliament; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) and (b) Sector-wise list of illustrative works under Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) is provided under MPLADS guidelines. This list is revised from time to time on the basis of inputs received from Hon'ble MPs. The latest information in this regard is also available on the official website of the Ministry (www.mplads.gov.in).

(c) and (d) There is no proposal under consideration with the Government for increase of MPLADS funds at present.

Know India Programme

1961. SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the manner in which the Indian diaspora has responded to the Know India Programme; and

(b) the details of participation of the diaspora?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) The Know India Programme is an important initiative of the Government of India which aims to engage diaspora youth in the age group of 18-30 years. The aim is to connect them with their motherland and to motivate and inspire them by the transformations taking place in contemporary India. The programme also aims to give them an exposure to India's diverse forms of art, heritage, and culture.

Ministry has received an overwhelmingly positive response from the Indian diaspora. In view of the positive response received from the diaspora, the Know India Programme was revamped in 2016 and the number of editions were enhanced from 04 to 06 in a financial year. The age limit criteria was also increased from 18-26 years to 18-30 years.

(b) Since its inception in 2004, Ministry had conducted 57 editions of this programme, with the participation of 1981 diaspora youth from 49 countries. The 58th and 59th editions of this programme are scheduled to be organized in the months of December, 2019 and January, 2020.