

Prime Minister's visit to the US

1962. SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) number of agreements and MoUs signed between India and US during last visit of Prime Minister to the US and details thereof;

(b) whether any discussion was held for reducing the imposition of 25 per cent safeguard duty on steel by US which affected steel exports from India, if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) details of the organiser of the "Howdy Modi" event in US;

(d) whether Government has any information regarding the expenditure incurred and source of fund for organising that event; and

(e) if so, details thereof and if not, the reasons for not collecting such information?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) An Indian company, Petronet LNG Limited, and a U.S. company, Tellurian Inc., concluded an MoU to explore energy cooperation on the sidelines of the Prime Minister's interaction with leading energy sector CEOs in Houston, Texas on 21 September, 2019.

(b) India and the U.S. have engaged on trade issues of mutual interest, including on the additional tariffs on import of steel imposed by the U.S.

(c) to (e) The U.S.-based Texas India Forum, Inc. organized a Community Summit entitled 'Howdy, Modi! Shared Dreams, Bright Futures' in honour of the Prime Minister in Houston on 22 September, 2019. According to the website of the event, the costs of the event will be covered by donations from the general public.

**Proposed amendment to the National Defence
Authorisation Act (NDAA)**

1963. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the amendment proposed for the National Defence Authorisation Act (NDAA) by the US Congressman Brad Sherman;

- (b) its implications on current US-India relations; and
- (c) the implications of this on India's global standing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) to (c) Member of the U.S. House of Representatives, Congressman Brad Sherman, introduced an amendment pertaining to India in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020. This amendment proposes the sense of the Congress that the U.S. should strengthen and enhance its major defence partnership with India, *inter alia*, to promote shared values and common interests, enhance civilian and military exchanges, facilitate information sharing and technology transfer. This amendment also mandates the submission of a report by the U.S. Secretary of Defense to the U.S. Congress regarding defence cooperation between India and the U.S. in the Western Indian Ocean.

The amendment was passed by the House of Representatives, and included in its version of the NDAA for FY 2020. The U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate versions of the text of the NDAA for FY 2020 are currently being reconciled in a joint committee.

India and the U.S. have established a strategic partnership based on our shared values and common interests. As sovereign democracies and strategic partners, both countries are closely involved in global efforts to promote peace, prosperity and security, and have committed to work together on regional and global issues.

Information of fake foreign universities

1964. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the instances of Indian students enrolling in fake foreign universities are on the rise;
- (b) whether Government has identified the issues faced by several Indian students abroad after foreign institutes they enrolled in, turns out to be fake;
- (c) whether Government proposes to set up a portal to help students seeking admission in foreign universities to identify the genuineness of such universities; and
- (d) if so, the details of the proposed portal and other steps taken by Government to help Indian students enrolling in foreign universities?