

PM's interaction with delegation of European Parliamentarians

*255. SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister had talked about the development priorities and his vision of new Kashmir in an interaction with a delegation of European Parliamentarians who visited Kashmir recently;

(b) if so, what are these development priorities and his vision of new Kashmir;

(c) whether Government has any proposal for a real political dialogue with various political leaders in Kashmir in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY): (a) and (b) Members of European Parliament called on the Hon'ble Prime Minister during their visit to India. During their meeting, PM discussed further strengthening of bilateral relations given the shared interests and common commitments to democratic values between India and the EU in the fields of trade and economic relations including the commitment of Government of India in concluding a fair and balanced Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) with the EU, regional and global matters including fight against terrorism and climate change. He enumerated the various programmes of the Government of India for ensuring ease of living for all Indians through key programmes like Swachh Bharat, Ayushman Bharat, environment protection enhancing renewable energy targets, commitment to eliminating TB etc. He also expressed the hope that their visit would give them a better understanding of India's priorities and welcomed their visit to Jammu and Kashmir for a better appreciation of its religious diversity and a clear view of the Government's priorities in the region.

(c) and (d) Dialogue with elected representatives, various organisations, political parties, political leaders etc. is a continuous process including in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh.
