

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1684
ANSWERED ON- 13/03/2025

INDIA-US RELATIONS

1684 SHRI JOSE K. MANI
SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:-

(a) whether Government is aware of the recent remarks made by the US President that the US Agency for International Development (USAID) spent \$21 million to boost voter turnout in India's elections;

(b) if so, Government's official response to these remarks and whether any explanation has been sought from US Government in this regard; and

(c) the details of diplomatic measures that are being undertaken to ensure that India-U.S. bilateral relations remain unaffected despite these constant remarks made by the US President against India especially with regard to tariffs?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a to c) The Ministry of External Affairs is aware of the information that has been put out by the U.S. Administration regarding the activities and funding by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). On 20th January 2025, the U.S. President signed an Executive Order (EO) initiating a review of all U.S. foreign assistance programs to ensure that they are efficient and consistent with the U.S. foreign policy. Under this Executive Order, all U.S. foreign assistance funded by or through the U.S. State Department as well as the USAID have been paused and are subject of an ongoing investigation by the U.S. Government's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE).

On 10th March 2025, after a six-week review by DOGE, the U.S. Secretary of State in a post on X platform announced that the U.S. Government is officially cancelling 83% of the programs of USAID or about 5,200 contracts that spent billions of dollars in ways that did not serve, and in some cases harmed, the core national interests of the United States. In consultation with the U.S. Congress, the U.S. Government intends to continue about 1,000 of the remaining programs to be now administered more effectively under the U.S. State Department.

In view of the recent reports regards USAID funding in India, the Ministry of External Affairs has formally asked the U.S. Embassy to urgently furnish details of expenditure incurred on all USAID assisted / funded projects in India over the last ten years. We have also sought information about NGOs through whom various initiatives may have been

executed. However, such details are yet to be provided by the U.S. side. While there is some open-source information available on this matter, the Government of India understandably expects an official response from the U.S. Government on this matter.

Publicly available information about beneficiary individuals / organizations has also been redacted in certain cases apparently in line with the exceptions outlined in the U.S. Foreign Aid Transparency and Accountability Act of 2016. As per that legislation, the exceptional redactions include information that would jeopardise the health or security of an implementing partner or program beneficiary. Another justification is a determination that the information online would be detrimental to the national interests of the United States.

The recent visit of Prime Minister to Washington DC on 13 February 2025 offered an opportunity for the leaders of the two countries to reaffirm the strength of the India-U.S. Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership that is anchored in mutual trust, shared interests, goodwill and robust engagement of their citizens. Demonstrating the growing level of trust between the two sides, the leaders also launched the “U.S.-India COMPACT – Catalyzing Opportunities for Military Partnership, Accelerated Commerce & Technology for the 21st Century” to drive transformative change for a mutually beneficial partnership. Both sides remain engaged to address all issues of concern including the issue of trade and tariffs in a constructive manner.
