

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3252  
ANSWERED ON:04.02.2004  
VISIT OF FOREIGN DIGNITARIES  
CHANDRA NATH SINGH;NVEDITA MANE;SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK

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

- (a) foreign dignitaries who visited India since December, 2003 till date;
- (b) the issues on which deliberations were held with each of the dignitaries;
- (c) whether any bilateral agreements were signed with them; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

The following foreign dignitaries visited India since December, 2003 till date:-

Nepal:

- (a) HRH Paras Bir Bikram Shah Dev, Crown Prince and HRH Himani Rajya Lakshmi Devi Shah, Crown Princess are visit to India from January 18 to February 1, 2004
- (b) Courtesy calls on President, Vice President and Prime Minister were made.
- (c) No
- (d) Nil

Myanmar:

- a) & b) Mr. U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Myanmar visited India from December 22 - 23, 2003 to attend Ministerial Meeting on India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway Project linking Moreh (India) to Mae Sot (Thailand) through Bagan (Myanmar) The meeting was held in New Delhi on 23rd December 2003.
- c) Nil.
- d) Not applicable.

Sri Lanka:

- (a), (b), (c) & (d) Mr. Tyrone Fernando, Minister of Foreign Affairs has visited India from 29 to 30th January, 2004. Bilateral relations were discussed during the visit.

SAARC:

- (a) The SAARC Secretary General visited India on December 16-18, 2003.
- (b) The Secretary General was invited for informal consultations in connection with the 12th SAARC Summit. The preparations for the Summit and the Agenda items to be taken up at the Summit were discussed during his visit.
- (c) Nil
- (d) Does not arise.

Thailand:

- (a) (b)(c) & (d) Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Foreign Minister of Thailand visited India from December 21-23, 2003 to attend Ministerial meeting on India-Myanmar - Thailand Trilateral Highway Project linking Moreh (India) to Mae Sot (Thailand) through Bagan (Myanmar). No bilateral agreement was signed.

Singapore:

- (a) Mr. Lee Hsien Loung, Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister of Singapore visited India from January 10-17, 2004.
- (b) Issues of bilateral, regional and international significance were raised with the visiting dignitary.
- (c) NIL
- (d) Does not arise.

Mongolia:

- (a) Prime Minister of Mongolia, Mr. N.Enkhbayar visited India on January 14-19, 2004.
- (b) Both sides held discussions on bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest.
- (c) & (d) Three agreements / MOUs in the fields of Animal Health and Dairy, Space Science, Technology and Applications; and Biotechnology were signed. A Joint Statement was also issued at the end of the visit.

Republic of Korea (ROK):

- (a) Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of ROK, Dr. Yoon Young-Kwan visited New Delhi on December 21-23, 2003.
- (b) The second session of the Indo-ROK Joint Commission was held during the visit. Both sides held discussions on bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest.
- (c) & (d) Agreed Minutes of the Indo-ROK Joint Commission were signed.

Bahrain:

- (a) & (b) His Highness Shaikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al-Khalifa, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain, accompanied by a high-level delegation, paid a State Visit to India from January 11-14, 2004. During the visit, deliberations were held on the following issues:

- i) Bilateral Relations
- ii) International Developments
- iii) Terrorism
- iv) Non-Aligned Movement
- v) Establishment of a Palestinian State
- vi) Role of UN in Iraq

His Highness the Prime Minister of Bahrain also attended a business interaction session organised by the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FICCI) and the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII).

- (c) & (d) The following agreements were signed between India and Bahrain during the visit of the Prime Minister of Bahrain,

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between Ministries of Foreign Affairs;
- (ii) Agreement on Juridical and Judicial Cooperation in Civil and Commercial Matters;
- (iii) Extradition Treaty;
- (iv) Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters; and
- (v) Agreement on the Promotion and Protection of Bilateral Investment.

Mauritius:

- I. (a) & (b) Shri Pravind Jugnauth, Hon`ble Deputy Prime Minister of Mauritius visited India during 8th - 10th January, 2004 at the invitation of Dr. L M Singhvi for the Second Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Celebrations.

(c) & (d) Discussions on enhancing the already close and friendly bilateral relationship was held.

II(a) Shri Jaya Krishan Cuttaree, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Regional Cooperation Government of Mauritius visited India during 6th - 10th January, 2004 to co-chair the Indo-Mauritius Joint Commission meeting.

(b) Deliberations were held on political issues, India's Cooperation with SADC and COMESA, Cooperation in the field of Terrorism, Science and Technology (including IT), Oceanography and Non-conventional Energy resources, Environment, Culture, Civil Aviation, ITEC Training, Consular matters including facilitation of visa to Indian businessmen, new projects in Mauritius, important issues pertaining to Indian companies including PSUs in Mauritius, review of Bilateral Trade and agreement, Cooperation in Mutual Legal Assistance on Criminal Matters including anti-narcotics, Cooperation in Defence including purchase of offshore patrol vessel and helicopter by Mauritius and naval surveillance of exclusive economic zone of that country and conclusion of a comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement.

(c) & (d) Agreement was reached by both sides to increase bilateral trade and two way flow of investments, adoption of a liberal visa regime and non-restrictive labour policy, enhancement of interaction through the Joint Business Council to expand trade and commercial relations and an agreement to conclude a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) at the earliest.

Romania:

(a),(b),(c) & (d) Mr. Nicolae Vacaroiu, President of the Senate of Romania led a Romanian Parliamentary delegation to India from 14-18 December 2003. Bilateral issues, including economic cooperation and interaction between the Parliaments, were discussed during the visit.

Sweden:

(a) Swedish Prime Minister, Goran Persson visited India from 9-11 January, 2004.

(b) Bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest were discussed.

(c) No agreements were signed during the visit.

(d) Not applicable.

Brazil:

(a) President of Brazil H.E. Mr. Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva visited India from 25 -28 January 2004.

(b) Wide-ranging discussions relating to co-operation in various fields between India and Brazil were held during his visit.

(c) & (d) Following bilateral Agreements were signed:

(i) Agreement on exemption of visa requirement for holders of diplomatic passports;

(ii) Co-operation Agreement in the field of Tourism;

(iii) Framework Agreement on Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;

(iv) Programme of Co-operation for 2004 between ISRO and the Brazilian Space Agency AEB.

(v) Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) between India and MERCOSUR

(vi) Cultural Exchange Programme between India and Brazil

Guyana:

(a) The President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana H.E. Mr. Bharat Jagdeo visit India from 6-13 January 2004 as the Chief Guest for the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas.

(b) Bilateral issues including construction of a cricket stadium, extension of concessional line of credit for modernization of sugar

plants in Guyana were discussed. International issues of importance to both the countries were also discussed.

(a) & (d) No Agreements were signed.

Paraguay:

(a),(b),(c) & (d) Ms Leila Rashid, Foreign Minister of Paraguay visited India on 25-26 January, 2004 as part of the delegation from MERCOSUR to sign the Preferential Trade Agreement between India and MERCOSUR. She also had bilateral meeting with EAM and discussed matters of mutual interest. No bilateral agreement was signed.