GOVERNMENT OF INDIA EXTERNAL AFFAIRS LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3119 ANSWERED ON:13.12.2006 AGREEMENTS WITH AFGHANISTAN Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan;Nikhil Kumar Shri

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister of India has recently expressed concern over the increasing terrorist violence in Southern and South-Eastern Afghanistan;

(b) if so, the details of any discussion on this issue with the President of Afghanistan who paid a visit to India recently and the outcome thereof; and

(c) the details of agreements signed with Afghanistan recently?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) – (b) During the visit of President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan to India on November 15-19, 2006, Prime Minister had useful discussions with him on all aspects of India Afghanistan bilateral relations. India reiterated its commitment to continue assisting Afghanistan despite the challenges posed by the security situation. The security situation in the region was also discussed in detail. India expressed its concern over the increased activities of terrorist groups in Afghanistan.

(c) During the visit of President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan to India on April 9-13, 2006, an MoU on Rural Development, an MoU on Education and an MoU on Cooperation in the Field of Standardization between Bureau of Indian Standards and Afghan National Standardization Authority were signed on April 10, 2006).