

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:819

ANSWERED ON:22.10.2008

PRIME MINISTER S VISIT TO USA AND FRANCE

Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan;Singh Shri Mohan

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Prime Minister has visited USA and France recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of issues discussed and the agreements signed during this visits?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) Yes.

(b) to (c) Prime Minister visited the USA from September 24 to 27, 2008. In New York, Prime Minister addressed the General Assembly of the United Nations on September 26, 2008. He also attended the Millennium Development Goals meeting on September 25, 2008 and met a number of world leaders on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly. PM addressed a gathering of Indian community members in New York on September 26, 2008 where he announced the intention of Government of India to open two additional Indian Consulates in USA – in the cities of Atlanta and Seattle. On September 25th, Prime Minister made a working visit to Washington and met with the US President, George W. Bush. The two leaders reviewed bilateral relations and discussed international issues of mutual interest. Both leaders expressed their faith in the importance of the India-US bilateral relationship. Prime Minister visited France to attend the 9th India-EU Summit held in Marseilles on September 29, 2008 and the India-France Bilateral Summit in Paris on September 30, 2008. During the India-EU Summit, the two sides held discussion on regional situations, global issues and the strengthening of EU-India relations.

During the India-France Bilateral Summit, Prime Minister and President Sarkozy had discussions on bilateral, regional and international issues. Both sides reaffirmed the Strategic Partnership between India and France and their commitment to further strengthening cooperation in varied areas. During the Bilateral Summit, the following Agreements were signed:

- i) India-France Inter-Governmental Agreement on Civil Nuclear Cooperation.
- ii) India-France Framework Agreement for Cooperation in Outer Space.
- iii) India-France Inter-Governmental Agreement on Social Security.