

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:154

ANSWERED ON:10.08.2011

PM'S VISIT TO AFRICA

Choudhary Shri Bhudeo; Mcleod Smt. Ingrid

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Prime Minister's recent visit to Africa has helped India in improving our ties with African countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the agreements signed with these countries and the discussions held;
- (c) the benefits likely to accrue to India and these countries as a result thereof;
- (d) whether India has taken note of the Chinese presence in the region through investments and China's stronghold on Africa's natural resources;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps the Government is taking to make up for the delayed investment in Africa?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA)

(a) to (f) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (F) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.154 REGARDING 'PM'S VISIT TO AFRICA' FOR ANSWER ON 10.08.2011

Prime Minister visited Ethiopia in May 2011 to attend the Second India Africa Forum Summit and for a bilateral visit to Ethiopia. He also visited Tanzania on a bilateral visit. Prime Minister led the Indian delegation to the Second Africa India Forum Summit in Addis Ababa from 24-25 May 2011. The participation of African countries in the Summit was in accordance with the Banjul format adopted by the African Union for Africa's participation in such Summits. Accordingly 15 African countries participated in the Summit. These were Equatorial Guinea, Burundi, Chad, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritania, Senegal, Swaziland, Namibia, South Africa, Nigeria, Algeria, Egypt and Libya.

Prime Minister and the President of Equatorial Guinea (in his capacity as Chairperson of the African Union) co-Chaired the Summit. The theme of the Summit was "Enhanced Partnership and Shared Vision." Two documents, the Addis Ababa Declaration and the Africa India Framework for Enhanced Cooperation were adopted at the end of the Summit. This summit built upon the foundations of the historical relationship that exists between India and Africa, and further contributed to designing the structure of an enhanced engagement between India and our African partners, in the 21st century.

At the Summit, the Prime Minister announced many new initiatives to further strengthen our cooperation with Africa. He made several announcements for the next three years, including the availability of Lines of Credit of US\$5 billion; more than 22,000 scholarships to Africa over the period of next three years; and the establishment of more than 80 capacity building institutions in Africa. The proposed institutions include India-Africa Food Processing Cluster, India-Africa Integrated Textiles Cluster, India-Africa Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting, India-Africa Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development.

India's partnership with African countries is being significantly strengthened through a three tiered interaction which comprises engagement at the continental, regional and bilateral levels. The 2011 Summit carried forward the positive momentum generated by the First India Africa Forum Summit held in New Delhi in April 2008.

Prime Minister also had a bilateral visit to Ethiopia from 25-26 May 2011. This was the first ever visit by any Indian Prime Minister to Ethiopia. During the visit, Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement and Agreement for Cooperation in Small and Medium Enterprises were signed with Ethiopia. Prime Minister paid a state visit to Tanzania from 26-28 May 2011. During this visit three Agreements/MOUs were signed: Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion; Joint Action Plan between NSIC India and Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO), Tanzania; and between Apollo Group and Health Ministry of Tanzania for the setting up of a super specialty hospital in Tanzania.

Prime Minister's visit to Africa contributed towards renewing India-Africa cooperation and taking our multifaceted partnership forward in a comprehensive manner. While taking note of the presence in Africa of other countries, including China, India's interaction with

African countries is not based on or influenced by competition with any other country. It is rooted in the tradition of a common struggle against colonialism and apartheid and in South-South Cooperation.