

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:183

ANSWERED ON:07.12.2011

MIDDLE-EAST POLICY

Mahato Shri Narahari;Roy Shri Nripendra Nath

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

- (a) whether India's Foreign Policy lays special emphasis on the Middle-East countries in promoting peace, harmony and enduring economic ties;
- (b) if so, the details of action taken to accomplish the assigned task;
- (c) whether the Government has taken adequate steps to safeguard the country's interests in the region particularly in view of the changes taking place elsewhere; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTR OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (D) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.183 REGARDING "MIDDLE-EAST POLICY" FOR ANSWER ON 07.12.2011

India has civilizational links since ancient times with the countries of the Middle East and the Gulf. At the outset, the region plays a prominent role in our energy security through supply of over half of our oil and gas needs. Second, it is our largest trading partner region with a total bilateral trade of nearly USD 145 billion during 2010-11. Third, some countries in the region could be major sources for future investments into India. Four, a large Indian community lives and works in the region. Accordingly, peace and stability in this region are of vital importance to India. Keeping in view our close relations and mutual interdependence, we keep a close watch on the developments in the region through our Missions. We maintain regular interactions with the leaderships in the countries of the region. In all our interactions with them, we emphasize that we accord the highest priority to peace and harmony in the region which has a bearing on progress and prosperity for both of us. As a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), we closely coordinate with other members to ensure peaceful solutions to problems in the region.