

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3222  
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2012  
DEMOCRACY IN MYANMAR  
Sayeed Muhammed Hamdulla A. B.

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

he contribution of the Indian Government in the development of democracy in Myanmar?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR)

India has always encouraged Myanmar in its national reconciliation process urging that this be broad based and inclusive. Following general elections in Myanmar in November 2010 and the assumption of office by the new Government in Myanmar in March 2011, India welcomed Myanmar's transition towards democracy.

During the state visit of the President of Myanmar on October 14, 2011, the Prime Minister of India congratulated the President of Myanmar on the transition towards democratic Government and offered all necessary assistance in further strengthening this democratic transition in an inclusive and broad based manner. He welcomed the ongoing efforts at political, economic and social reform in Myanmar. He also welcomed the convening of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw (National Parliament of Myanmar) and the elected assemblies in all the States and Regions in Myanmar and expressed readiness to share India's own experiences in evolving parliamentary rules, procedures and practices.

In December 2011, a high level Parliamentary delegation led by the Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House of Myanmar's Parliament) visited India and met with the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, External Affairs Minister, Parliamentary Affairs Minister, the leaders of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs and other Parliamentarians. The Bureau of the Parliamentary Studies and Training also organized a briefing session for them on the Parliamentary rules, procedures and practices in India. Arrangements are being made to train Myanmar parliamentarians and parliamentary staff in India in follow up to the visit.

India has welcomed the successful conduct of by-elections in Myanmar on April 1, 2012. India has congratulated the Myanmar Election Commission and the Government and people of Myanmar on the peaceful and smooth manner in which elections appear to have been held and has also extended congratulations to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy for their landslide win. These elections represent a major milestone in Myanmar's transition towards multiparty democracy. At the invitation of the Government of Myanmar, India had sent senior officials from the Election Commission and journalists from the official media as observers for the by-elections. Our Ambassador to Myanmar also observed the elections in the Yangon region.