

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4520
ANSWERED ON:07.09.2012
DIPLOMATIC ENGAGEMENT WITH MYANMAR
Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government intends to enter into diplomatic engagement with the recently liberated leader of Myanmar's National Democratic League Aung San Su Kyi;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; (
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the manner in which the Government proposes to balance its engagement with Aung San Su Kyi and the ruling Government of Myanmar?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) The Prime Minister met Daw Aung San Suu Kyi during his State Visit to Myanmar in May 2012. In the statement made to the media subsequent to the meeting, the Prime Minister noted that "We in India are very proud of our longstanding association with her and members of her family including her parents". He also handed over to her an invitation letter to deliver the next Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Lecture. The Prime Minister further expressed the sincere belief that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi would play a defining role in the process of national reconciliation launched by President Thein Sein of Myanmar.

The close neighbourly relations between India and Myanmar have been further strengthened through high level exchanges and interactions over the past year. These include the visit of the President of Myanmar to India in October 2011 and the Prime Minister to Myanmar in May 2012.