

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2005

ANSWERED ON:05.12.2012

AUSTRALIAN PM'S VISIT TO INDIA

Kumar Shri Kaushalendra;Panda Shri Prabodh;Ramasubbu Shri S.;Siricilla Shri Rajaiah

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

- (a) the details of visits by foreign dignitaries to India during the last three months, till date;
- (b) the issues on which deliberations were held with each of the dignitaries;
- (c) whether any bilateral agreements were signed by them;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the details of visits undertaken by the Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister during the above period;
- (f) the details of discussions held and the outcome thereof; and
- (g) the steps taken by the Government to improve the bilateral relations with these countries?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (g) Australian Prime Minister Ms. Julia Gillard paid a State Visit to India from 15-17 October 2012. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh held delegation level talks with her. She called on the President, met the UPA Chairperson and received the External Affairs Minister and the Leader of the Opposition. Several new initiatives aimed at consolidating and taking forward the strategic partnership were launched. Four MoUs were signed to further cooperation in Student Mobility & Welfare; Civil Space Science; Wool; and Vocational Training. A Joint Press Statement was issued.

Government has taken consistent steps to improve bilateral relations over the years and strengthen the multifaceted cooperation. In 2009, the relationship was elevated to the level of Strategic Partnership. There have been regular high level visits between the two countries. The bilateral relationship was given fresh impetus during the recent visit of Australian PM Gillard to India.