

**08**

**STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
(2010-2011)**

**FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA**

**MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

[Action Taken on the recommendations contained in the Fourth Report  
(15<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of  
External Affairs for the year 2010-11]

**EIGHTH REPORT**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

***February, 2011/Magha, 1932 (Saka)***

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(15<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of  
External Affairs for the year 2010-11]

*Presented to Lok Sabha on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2011*

*Laid in Rajya Sabha on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2011*



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**  
**NEW DELHI**  
*February, 2011/Magha, 1932 (Saka)*

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## STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (2010-2011)

**Shri Ananth Kumar** - **Chairman**

### MEMBERS LOK SABHA

2. Shri S. Alagiri (Cuddalore)
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16. Dr. Shashi Tharoor
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18. Shri Shivkumar Udasi
19. Vacant#
20. Vacant
21. Vacant

### RAJYA SABHA

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24. Dr. K.P. Ramalingam
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26. Dr. Karan Singh
27. Shri Shivanand Tiwari
28. Shri Tarun Vijay
29. Shri Shreegopal Vyas
30. Vacant\$
31. Vacant@

### SECRETARIAT

1. Shri U.S. Saxena – Joint Secretary
2. Shri R.K. Jain – Director
3. Dr. Ram Raj Rai – Additional Director
4. Shri K.C. Pandey – Committee Officer

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\* Nominated w.e.f. 21.9.2010.

\$ Shri Arjun Kumar Sengupta nominated w.e.f. 21.9.10 and vacancy raised due to his sad demise w.e.f. 26.9.10

# Dr. Manda Jagannath has been ceased to be Member of the Committee w.e.f. 04.10.2010 consequent upon his nomination to Committee on Chemicals & Fertilizers

@ Ceased to be Member of the Committee consequent upon appointment of Shri Ashwani Kumar as Minister of State w.e.f. 19.01.2011.

## INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Standing Committee on External Affairs (2010-2011) having been authorized by the Committee to present the Report on their behalf, present this 8<sup>th</sup> Report (15<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the 4<sup>th</sup> Report (15<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of External Affairs for the year 2010-11.

2. The 4<sup>th</sup> Report was presented on 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2010. The updated Action Taken Replies of the Government on all the recommendations/observations contained in the Report were received on 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2011.

3. The Committee considered and adopted this Action Taken Report at their sitting held on 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2011. The Minutes of the sitting of the Committee have been given at Appendix-I to the Report.

4. An analysis of the Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the 4<sup>th</sup> Report of the Standing Committee on External Affairs (15<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) is given in Appendix-II.

**NEW DELHI**  
**14 February, 2011**  
***Magha 25, 1932 (Saka)***

**ANANTH KUMAR,**  
***Chairman,***  
***Standing Committee on External Affairs***

## CHAPTER – I

### REPORT

This Report of the Standing Committee on External Affairs deals with the Action Taken by Government on the observations/recommendations contained in their Fourth Report on Demands for Grants (2010-11) of the Ministry of External Affairs which was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2010.

2. The Action taken notes have been received from the Ministry of External Affairs on all the 26 observations/recommendations contained in the Report. These have been categorized as follows: -

**(i) Recommendations/Observations, which have been accepted by the Government.**

Recommendation Nos.1,2, 4,5,6,7, 9,10,11,13,15,16,17,19,20, 22, 25 & 26.

**Total-18**

**(ii) Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government replies.**

Recommendation Nos. 3 and 18

**Total-02**

**(iii) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of Government have not been accepted by the Committee and require reiteration.**

Recommendation Nos. 12, 14, 23 & 24.

**Total- 04**

**(iv) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies of Government are still awaited.**

Recommendation Nos. 8 and 21.

**Total-02**

3. The Committee desire that final replies to the recommendation/observations for which only interim replies have been given by the government should be furnished within three months of the presentation of this Report.

4. The Committee will now deal with some of the replies received from the Government, which need reiteration or merit comments.

**(Recommendation No.1)**

5. The Committee had noted that in the actual expenditure pattern, maximum amount was spent during the last quarter of the financial year. The Ministry in their justification had stated that the Cash Accounts from all the Missions/Posts were not received at the time of preparation of monthly assessment; therefore, the same were incorporated and accounted at the end of the financial year. The Committee were not satisfied with the justification given by the Ministry. At that time, the Integrated Mission Accounting System (I-MAS) was functional in more than fifty Missions/Posts abroad for accounting purposes. The Committee had, therefore, desired that remaining Missions/Posts should be connected with the software at the earliest so as to make actual assessment of expenditure in terms of real time basis. The Committee had also desired that MEA should regularly update their website particularly, the section related to MEA Accounts. Moreover, the Committee were amazed to know that a country which was helping in building up e-network in other countries had failed to connect all their Missions/Posts through the e-network. The Committee had, therefore, desired that the Ministry should ensure establishment of e-network in all the Missions/Posts without delay.

6. The Ministry of External Affairs in their action taken reply have stated as under:

“Ministry has already undertaken a pro-active approach to ask all our Missions to implement the IMAS software for use by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010. This has sensitized the Missions towards speedy implementation of IMAS software. As of December 2010, 121 Missions/Posts have implemented IMAS. The implementation of this software in rest of the Missions/Posts has been delayed due to technical reasons. This is being actively pursued with the concerned Missions/Posts and also with the development team.

As for e-networking of our Missions abroad, it may be noted that e-networking is also in existence for some specific services, for example, Centralized Passport Printing System, on-line Passport Verification System, Mail Service, ITEC Programmes. Management Information System (MIS) also provides for real time updation of data in the budget module as well as the Administration module. Another aspect of e-networking will be added when the Ministry moves to the new building where provision for e-networking of our Missions through the voice over IP Protocol has already been incorporated for implementation.

It may be noted that communications over internet and e-networking depend heavily on public infrastructure available in the host country of our Missions abroad. This varies widely from place to place and ensuring security of such channels requires to be fool-proof for functioning. As and when applications, which may require



use of dedicated secure networks, Ministry would be implementing the same.

As per the recommendation of the Hon'ble Standing Committee, XP Division has taken suitable action to spread familiarization visits equally over the year. A list of the visits that were arranged, and plans for the next three months in the current financial year, is enclosed.

On the expenditure front, the Division has already spent 61.8% of the sanctioned budget till date. Further expenditure will be incurred for the activities scheduled for the remaining period in the current financial year.

The MEA website is being updated on real-time basis. Ministry will coordinate with various Divisions for updating the website of required material that is helpful to the Missions.”

**Tentative schedule of media delegations/ Events  
for XP Division for 2010 & till April 2011**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Delegation/Event</b>
<b>April</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hosted A delegation of women journalists from SAARC countries</li> </ul>
<b>May</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>18 – 25 April</b> Hosted media delegates from <b>ASEAN countries</b></li> </ul>
<b>June</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>20-23 June:</b> Hosted Mr. <b>Haroon Siddiqui</b>, Editor Emeritus, Toronto Star</li> <li><b>30 June- 7 July-</b> A delegation of Journalist Delegation from <b>Pakistan</b></li> </ul>
<b>July</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>19-24 July :</b> MEA Beat Media Course at FSI</li> </ul>
<b>August</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>14 - 20 August :</b> Hosted a delegation of <b>Journalists from Nepal</b></li> <li><b>21-27 August :</b> Hosted a delegation of <b>journalists from CIS countries</b></li> </ul>
<b>September</b>	<p><b>12-18 September: Hosted a delegation of Journalists from China</b></p> <p><b>25 Sep- 3 October: A delegation of Journalists from Japan and South Korea</b></p> <p><b>17 Sep – 2 October:</b> A tailored made Training programme was organized at IIMC for 26 journalists from Myanmar</p>
<b>October</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>3-10 October:</b> Hosted a delegation of journalists from Bangladesh</li> <li><b>10-17 October:</b> Hosted a delegation from the Anglophone African countries (<i>Egypt, Botswana, Ghana, Namibia, South Africa, Sudan, Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, Malawi, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Ghana</i> )</li> </ul>
<b>November</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>19-26 November:</b> Hosted Mr. Adrian Michael Editor in Chief of the Telegraph London</li> </ul>
<b>December</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1<sup>st</sup> Dec:</b> Interaction for European Chiefs of Bureaus based in New Delhi</li> <li><b>4-12 December:</b> Hosted a delegation of journalists from Sri Lanka.</li> </ul>

<b>January 2011</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8-15 January: Visit of 14 Journalists from Eastern Europe (Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Czech, Slovakia, Romania, Slovenia and Croatia-<b>10/11 Jan- DS XPS</b>)</li> <li>• 12-20 January: Would be hosting 12-14 Economic/Financial Editors from BRIC/IBSA</li> <li>• 16-23 January/ : 11 Editors from Bhutan</li> <li>• <b>16-28 January:</b> 30 Afghan journalists training (IIMC)</li> <li>• <b>23-30 January: Delegation from Pakistan ( 24 and 27 Jan)</b></li> <li>• Hosting journalists from Taiwan</li> </ul>
<b>February 2011</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From Saudi Arabia</li> <li>• <b>12-17 February:</b> From Iran</li> <li>• From Pakistan</li> </ul>
<b>March 2011</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• West Asia ( Jordan, Syria, Israel, Palestine and Lebanon)</li> </ul>
<b>April</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• India Africa Summit in May in Ethiopia (<b>Anglophone African countries</b> (Group II: North &amp; Central African Countries-awaited))</li> </ul>

7. The Committee had expressed their concern over expenditure pattern of the Ministry and pointed out that maximum amount was spent during the last quarter of the financial year. The purpose of the recommendation made by the Committee was that expenditure pattern of the whole Ministry should be streamlined and fund allocated should be utilized evenly in each quarter of the financial year. But the Ministry has not responded in true letter and spirit and nowhere mentioned about actual assessment of expenditure of the Ministry in terms of real time basis. The Committee had observed that the non-connectivity of all the Missions/Posts through e-network was one of the reasons for not making actual assessment of expenditure in terms of real time basis and had desired that all the Missions/Posts should be connected at the earliest. But, the Committee note that all the Missions/Posts have not yet implemented the IMAS software even after a lapse of eight months beyond the target date of April, 2010.

The Committee, therefore, observe that there is an earnest need of overhauling the expenditure pattern in the Ministry. In order to avoid the rush of expenditure in the last quarter of financial year, every necessary step should be taken including implementation of IMAS software e-networking in each Mission/Post at the earliest. The

**Committee also desire that website of the Ministry particularly, the section related to MEA account should invariably be updated by each Division on real time basis.**

**(Recommendation No. 2)**

8. The Committee had noted that there had been vast gap between the Proposed Outlays and the Actual Allocation in the Annual Plans over the years. The Approved Plan Outlay for the Ministry of External Affairs for 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan was Rs. 2488.41 crores. Moreover, at the mid-term review stage, the Ministry had sought an allocation worth Rs. 4522.24 crores and the allocation was still awaited. The Committee were of the view that the Ministry should make efforts for quicker allocation so that the pace of execution of the current projects and the projects in pipeline were not adversely affected. The Ministry had accepted the fact that the fund allocation by Planning Commission might have been based on the past utilization of budget by the Ministry. The Committee had taken very serious note of Ministry's casual approach in the matter and hold them responsible for continuous poor utilization of funds allocated to the Ministry. The Committee had also noted that inspite of reduced allocation, surrenders had taken place at the end of the year. Hence, the Committee had suggested that the Ministry should make more realistic assessment for Proposed Outlays in consonance with Ministry's capacity to spend.

9. The Ministry of External Affairs in their action taken reply have stated as under:

“The Committee's suggestion is noted. The Ministry would take all necessary steps to ensure a realistic projection of its budgetary requirements and efficient utilization of the allocated funds so as to avoid any surrender at the close of the financial year.”

**10. The Committee regret to note that inspite of the clear instructions that replies to the recommendations of the Committee should be comprehensive and not inconclusive or couched in general terms like noted or accepted etc., the Ministry have replied in the same manner. The Committee do not expect such kind of reply and hope that the Ministry will take care of these instructions in future while furnishing replies to the recommendations of the Committee. They have also not given any details about the efforts made by them to obtain more allocation of funds during the current Five Year Plan. The Committee regret to note that the Ministry have continued with a similar casual approach ignoring the serious note of the Committee. The Committee, therefore, reiterate that the Ministry should ensure a realistic projection of its budgetary requirements and efficient**

**utilization of the allocated funds so as to avoid any surrender at the close of financial year and also inform the Committee about the initiatives taken by the Ministry to implement the recommendations of the Committee.**

**(Recommendation No. 8)**

11. The Committee had taken a note of very small number of interpreters in position at Headquarters and Missions. The Committee had also noted that as and when required the services of interpreters from outside the cadre of Ministry were also availed of. But the Ministry was not able to provide information about the payments made to them during the last three years. The Committee had felt that the compilation of complete data regarding availing of services of interpreters from outside at Headquarters and Missions and payment made to them would facilitate the Ministry to make realistic assessment and requirements of the interpreters language wise. The Committee were not in favour of the presence of outside interpreters in the important and politically sensitive international meetings. The Committee had, therefore, reiterated that adequate study should be undertaken and the Ministry should build and strengthen its interpreter cadre having sufficient number of interpreters in all major languages particularly in Non-UN languages.

12. The Ministry of External Affairs in their action taken reply have stated as under:

“All the Territorial Divisions have been working on and sharing information about hiring of interpreters at Headquarters. As regards the need to expand the Interpreters’ Cadre of the Ministry, it may be noted that all Indian Foreign Service Officers are required to learn a ‘Compulsory Foreign Language’ before they are confirmed in Service. Therefore, a fair degree of foreign language expertise is available within MEA even apart from the specialized Interpreters Cadre. At present the languages spoken by IFS officers cover Arabic, Chinese, French, Spanish, Russian, German, Italian, Persian, Korean, Japanese, Portuguese, Nepalese, Kiswahili, Bahasa Malay, Thai, Turkish, Bahasa Indonesia, Sinhalese, Vietnamese, Burmese, Dutch and Serbo-Croatian. Indian Missions and Posts abroad also have posts of local interpreters and hence they do not need to hire interpreters in the normal course. Only in exceptional circumstances and during VVIP visits, do they hire additional interpreters to meet the short-term requirement. Since English is spoken in the Foreign Offices of most of the countries in the world, the present number of specialized Interpreters, coupled with the foreign language expertise of IFS officers, and the services of the local hired interpreters in Missions/Posts is felt to be adequate to meet day-to-day needs. Increasing the strength of the specialized Interpreters’ Cadre in MEA is also constrained by the fact that members of this Cadre are recruited by UPSC on the basis of their existing academic qualifications and work experience in the concerned language. As

such, there are very limited facilities available in Indian academic institutions for teaching of non-UN or single-country foreign languages. Hence, widening of the Interpreters' Cadre to include more languages is likely to pose considerable difficulty at the recruitment stage."

**13. The Committee are dismayed to note that the Ministry have not been able to provide complete data regarding availing of services of interpreters from outside at Headquarters/Missions and actual payments made to them even after repeated directions of the Committee. The Ministry have informed that Indian Missions/Posts have posts of local interpreters and they do not hire interpreters in normal course. Actually, the Committee had expressed dissatisfaction over small number of interpreters in position at Headquarters & Missions and had desired to know the number of hired interpreters and payment made to them. They have also not responded to the concern of the Committee about the presence of outside interpreters in the important and politically sensitive international meetings. It seems that Ministry have ignored all the focal points relating to the issue of hiring of interpreters from outside and have been furnishing inconclusive reply. The Committee, therefore, recommend that desired information should be compiled and furnished without any further delay and concrete efforts should be made to strengthen interpreter cadre instead of hiring interpreters from outside cadre without making any effort to convince the Committee through one or the other reasons. The Committee also want that services of Hindi interpreters should invariably be made available in all the Missions abroad.**

**(Recommendation No.11)**

14. The Committee had taken note of Ministry's effort to provide Aid and Loan to neighbouring countries and developing countries under various heads. Apart from building very few mega-projects in neighbouring countries, the Ministry was engaged in Small Development Projects (SDPs) in those countries. However, for all other countries the main focus of Ministry was to provide technical aid which was mainly focused on IT sector and capacity building of the personnel under International Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC Programme). The Committee were of the opinion that Ministry should evaluate the entire gamut of projects under 'Aid and Loans' and come out with the comprehensive review and a realistic, targeted blueprint with clearly stated aims and objectives encompassing developing countries of African and Latin American and Caribbean Countries as well as neighbouring countries.

The Committee were also of the view that the Ministry should also focus on investment in projects for creating permanent assets particularly in the area of infrastructure. The Committee had, therefore, desired that the Ministry should identify such projects that increase India's presence on a long term basis and citizens of a friendly country might feel India's presence as a friend in need. While making the investments, the attitude and affection of the people of that particular country should also be considered. The Committee had also desired that alongwith the public sector, the Government of India should encourage, facilitate and channelize the energy of Indian private sector to increase India's presence in the African and Latin American regions. The Committee had reiterated that India should pay more attention towards those countries, in view of various competing influences operating in the region.

15. The Ministry of External Affairs in their action taken reply have stated as under:

“Developing Countries, including those in Caribbean, Latin America and Africa are being paid due attention by the Ministry as far as grant of assistance to these countries is concerned. The main focus is to set up IT Training Centres under Development Partnership. In the last few years, IT Training Centres have been set up in Cuba, El-Salvador, Honduras, Jamaica and Nicaragua. Establishment of new IT Training Centres is under implementation in Syria and Grenada. Proposals for setting up similar IT Training Centres in Vietnam, Ecuador and Dominican Republic are under active consideration of the Ministry.

Infrastructure projects have not been neglected. Apart from the projects mentioned above, a Vocational Training Centre for construction sector is being set up in Aceh, Indonesia. The Government of Montenegro has approached us for conducting a feasibility study on setting up of a communication network centre in Podgorica (Montenegro) which will link that Country's Missions with its Headquarter. Development of two wind farms in Syria is also being considered. In Maldives, an 8-storey India-Maldives Friendship Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism Studies Centre is being constructed.

Ministry has given due consideration to the role of the private sector also. IT Centre projects in Cuba, El-Salvador, Honduras, Jamaica and Nicaragua were all awarded to the private sector, as was the civil, plumbing, fire-fighting and electrical works part of the project in Maldives.

Besides the above, Ministry has undertaken restoration works of the Ta Prohm Temple complex in Cambodia and Wat Phou Temple complex in Laos through the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to help preserve the cultural heritage of these two nations.

## **Africa**

In Africa, the Indo-Zimbabwe Project for Development of Small and Medium Enterprises Sector is under completion. In Tanzania, feasibility study for mining coal for production of sponge iron and steel through Ministry of Coal is under consideration of the Ministry. Proposals for setting up of IT Centres in Burundi, Uganda, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Congo, and Liberia are also under Ministry's consideration.

This Ministry has been assisting various countries of Africa for development through a mix of loan and grant. Major infrastructure projects on the request of host countries have been undertaken through Line of Credit (LOC) route whereas smaller projects are considered under GOI grant as well. Year 2008 had been a landmark year in India Africa relations as after the India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) of April, 2008, the priorities of African continent were identified and the programme was chalked out for meeting those priorities. During the IAFS, our PM announced US\$ 5 billion credit to various African countries over a period of 5 years and grant amounting to US\$ 500 million for implementation of various projects. In the Plan of Action, various programmes for capacity building in Africa through regular academic courses and training courses under agriculture, doubling of ICCR scholarships, enhancement of ITEC scholarships, etc. were offered to African countries.

A commitment has also been made to set up the following institutions in Africa:-

- i. India-Africa Institute of Information Technology;
- ii. India-Africa Diamond Institute;
- iii. India-Africa Institute of Planning and Administration;
- iv. 10 Vocational Training Centres in Africa and;
- v. Human Settlement Centres.

Discussions are continuing with the AU for identification of locations of the above institutes/centres.

The above list is only indicative and to get a complete picture, a copy of the Plan of Action of the Framework for Cooperation of the IAFS launched with the African Union (AU) Delegation in March 2010 is enclosed. In addition, the Africa Divisions in the MEA are implementing projects under grant bilaterally as well.

The decision of the IAFS focus on some of the ideas by elaborating capacity building programmes and working on creation of regional institutions. Extensive consultations with the African countries, Regional Communities and African Union are held so that the requirement of African countries is fully met.

Periodic review is conducted of our policy and programmes in order to safeguard India's interests in Africa. The energy of the private sector is also channelised to increase India's presence in Africa. To achieve this end, we have supported the CII-Exim Bank Conclave for 6 years in which India's private sector and public sector meet and match their objectives with their African counterparts.

So far, Lines of Credit(LOCs) worth US\$1446.20 million have been extended to the 25 countries in West Africa. These have been done on a bilateral basis as also through regional organizations/initiatives. LOCs have been mostly for infrastructure projects. Our focus is for supply of projects which will have a lasting impression of India's contribution to the respective country's economic and social development, e.g., we have recently announced LOCs for two hydro power projects in DR Congo which will benefit a vast number of people.

During the year 2010-11, so far, the following LOC's have been approved for the countries of East & Southern Africa:

S.N.	Country	Amount in US \$ mn	Purpose
1	Ethiopia	213.31	Development of sugar industry
2	Kenya	61.60	Power transmission lines
3	Malawi	50.00	Cotton processing facilities, green belt initiative, one village one product project
4	Mauritius	48.50	For purchase of Off shore Patrol Vessel
5	Mozambique	25.00	Rural electrification project
6	Mozambique	20.00	Enhancing productivity of rice-wheat-maize cultivation (US\$ 20 million)

Revised set of guidelines for disposal of LOC applications have been approved by External Affairs Minister and is now awaiting the concurrence of the Ministry of Finance.

The projects undertaken by the East and Southern Africa Division are invariably undertaken on the request of the host countries. Recommendations of our Heads of Missions are taken into consideration before submitting any proposal for approval. The following important projects have been completed/ are under process in the countries of East & Southern Africa under GOI grant:

1. Setting up of India-Tanzania Centre of Information Technology, in Dar-es-Salaam (Already implemented)
2. Setting up of Centre of Excellence in Information Technology in Lesotho (In advance stages of implementation)



### 3. Setting up of India-Seychelles Centre of Excellence in Information Technology (In advance stages of implementation)

These Centres have been set up at the request of the host Governments and apart from providing support for networking in medical/educational fields would also impart training to the citizens of respective countries in the field of Information Technology. The Centres would no doubt meet the expectations of the Committee as citizens of Tanzania, Lesotho and Seychelles would feel India's presence as a friend in need.

Under the Pan-African e-Network Project, Government of India is helping in setting up a fibre-optic network to provide satellite connectivity, tele-medicine and tele-education in African countries. M/s. Telecommunication Consultants India Limited, a Government of India undertaking, is implementing the project on behalf of Government of India. Project aims to create significant linkages for tele-education and tele-medicine, internet, video-conferencing and VoIP services making available the facilities and expertise of some of the best universities and super-specialty hospitals in India to the people of Africa. 47 of the 53 African countries have signed the agreement with TCIL for implementation of this project, which has already been implemented in 39 countries and implementation is likely to be completed in the remaining countries shortly.

The Government has been encouraging participation of private sector in investment related projects. With this view in mind, regional conclaves/workshops have been organized not only in India but also in several African capitals to attract investment by private sector organisations. Recent examples are acquisition of telecommunication services by Bharti Mittal Group, joint venture projects by TATAs/Mahindra & Mahindra in Nigeria, Angola etc.

### **Eurasia**

Under our programme, **Aid to Eurasian Countries**, a number of projects in varying sectors of the economy have been funded or are being funded in some of the countries in the region. These include some mega projects like renovation of Varzob-I project in Tajikistan at a cost of Rs. 74.20 crores, setting up of a Potato Processing Plant in Talas region of the Kyrgyzstan (cost Rs. 10.80 crores) and some smaller projects like setting up of Entrepreneurship Centre in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan in addition to various I.T. Centres in Armenia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. Such unique capacity building and training projects in the entrepreneurship development sector and particularly in the I.T. field, help establish a strong Indian brand of excellence in these areas. This will promote goodwill for India and also create conditions for promoting IT –related exports in the future. These projects are identified taking into consideration the requirements and aspirations of the people of the recipient countries and India's expertise and

reputation in that field. Some of these projects funded with our financial support have become self-sustained and showcase India's developmental experience in the particular field. Our budget for the year 2010-11 has been increased to Rs. 40 crores in keeping with India's strategy to increase our presence in Eurasian countries in our extended neighbourhood.

Possibility of setting up certain new projects in the region like Eurasia e-Centre and establishment of a hospital with Indian financial and technical assistance are being explored. These are likely to further boost India's image in the Eurasia region.

### **Latin America and Caribbean**

India desires to build a multi-faceted relationship with Latin America & Caribbean region which is increasingly assuming strategic importance for India. India has a Strategic Partnership with Brazil, a Privileged Partnership with Mexico and with Argentina we are working towards a Strategic Partnership. India wishes to nurture historical and cultural ties with the Caribbean region that has substantial presence of Indian Diaspora. Our engagement with the region in general has increased manifold both bilaterally and multilaterally in recent times. There have been several exchanges of visits at the Head of Government/State, Ministerial, official and people to people contacts. This year Prime Minister visited Brazil for the Bilateral, IBSA and BRIC Summits on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2010. Earlier former MOS Dr. Shashi Tharoor visited Colombia, Peru, Dominican Republic and Haiti in January 2010. MOS Ms Praneet Kaur visited Brazil and Argentina in May 2010.

India's trade with the region in 2009 was over US\$ 16 billion and our investments so far in the region are over US\$ 11 billion mostly in hydrocarbons. The potential is vast and we will continue to pursue our strategic interests in the region pertaining to energy security, food security, source minerals for our growing industry and facilitate market access for our exports. As part of our commitment to South-South Cooperation, we will continue to assist countries in the region in their capacity building initiatives. Trade promotion activities and business conclaves will be supported to bring greater awareness about the potential that exists between India and Latin America & Caribbean.

Our IT centres set up in Cuba, El Salvador, Honduras, Jamaica and Nicaragua are all working satisfactorily. These IT centres are very well appreciated in the countries that have been set up especially since they are assisting countries in their capacity building initiatives and creation of employment. On the request of the Governments of Nicaragua, Honduras and El Salvador we have extended to run the centres for one more year. The proposal for an IT centre in Grenada is in an advance stage of consideration. Similar proposals for Ecuador, Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Paraguay are being processed. The proposal of Costa Rica is awaiting internal clearances of its Government. Through our Indian Technical and

Economic Cooperation (ITEC) we impart specialized training in varied sectors at our premier Institutions of India. We also send our experts to these countries under this programme. For LAC countries we provide over 500 ITEC slots every year. The Government Lines of Credit (LoC) extended to LAC countries are primarily meant for infrastructure creation. In the last quarter, proposals received from Cuba, Belize and Nicaragua are being examined.

In order to sustain our long term strategic interests in the region we will consider opening of new missions on a case by case basis. We have opened a new mission in Guatemala in December, 2009.

### **Nepal**

Our economic cooperation with Nepal under “Aid to Nepal” is broad based with specific focus at the grass-root level. A number of projects have been implemented in the areas of infrastructure, health, water resources, rural and community development and education. The economic assistance extended to the GoN during 2008-09 under ‘Aid-to-Nepal’ budget was over Rs. 120 crores; and in FY 2009-2010, Rs. 161 crores.

The Small Development Projects (SDPs) programme, which covers projects with an outlay of less than NRs 5 crore (approx IRs. 3.125 crores), focuses on the critical sectors of health, education and community development has been implemented in Nepal under an MoU signed with the Government of Nepal in 2003. So far, over 150 projects have been completed and over 200 are under various stages of implementation in all 75 districts of Nepal. The SDP MoU has been further extended for a period of three years in July 2008. There are a number of medium to large projects under various stages of implementation in Nepal.

We have been working towards development and upgradation of border infrastructure including (i) Integrated Check Posts (ICPs), (ii) Road and (iii) Rail Linkages along the India-Nepal border. The development of the border infrastructure will increase connectivity with the Terai region and will further strengthen the economic linkages and people-to-people contacts between the two countries.

### **Bhutan**

As recommended by the Committee, in Bhutan, Ministry have focused on investment in projects for creating permanent assets, particularly in the area of infrastructure, and on projects that increase India’s presence on a long-term basis.

India is Bhutan’s largest development partner and the principal donor for its economic development. GOI assistance encompasses a wide range of sectors of infrastructural development such as

hydropower, transport, health, civil aviation, education, industry, information technology and communications.

- GOI has assisted in the establishment of the Paro airport.
- GOI is providing assistance for the establishment of a one million tonne capacity cement plant (Dungsum Cement Plant or DCP) in Bhutan, which will provide local employment and exploit Bhutan's only viable mineral resource in the area, limestone. India is also assisting Bhutan in the establishment of required infrastructure for the smooth functioning of DCP, such as roads, transmission line for the power supply for the plant, electric sub-station and railway siding.
- Border Roads Organisation's Project DANTAK has been undertaking works exclusively in Bhutan and has implemented several prestigious infrastructural projects such as development of highways and roads, telecommunication networks, airfields, helipads, housing complexes, hydel sub-stations etc. Till date. DANTAK has completed 1615 kms of black-topped roads, 115 kms of tracks and 4830 mts. of bridges in Bhutan. Other projects include four major highways, that is, Phuentsholing-Thimpu (179 kms), Gelephu-Trongsa (248 kms), Darranga-Trashigang (180 kms), and Simtokha-Trongsa-Trashigang (548 kms); Paro and Yangphula airfields, Bhutan Broadcasting Station, India House complex, Chukha hydel project housing complex, SAARC Convention Centre (*now used as offices of Bhutan's Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, enhancing the visibility of India's assistance*), Sherubtse College, Bank of Bhutan building and a hospital in Depthang.
- Development of water resources, particularly hydroelectric power projects (HEPs) has been an important, mutually beneficial and highly successful element in India's assistance programme for Bhutan. Three major HEPs have been built with GOI assistance in Bhutan: 336 MW Chukha HEP, 60 MW Kurichhu HEP and 1020 Tala HEP. India has committed to develop 10,000 MW of hydropower in Bhutan for export to India by 2020. Ten new HEPs have been identified for development to achieve this target. Of these, work on three has started – 720 MW Mangdechhu HEP, 1200 MW Punatsangchhu-I HEP and 1000 MW Punatsangchhu-II HEP. Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for the remaining projects are being prepared.
- India is assisting in the establishment of a Medical College in Thimpu, for which a Joint Project Implementation Authority has been set up. Some other major projects under Indian assistance include Electricity Distribution System for Thimpu and Paro, Indo-Bhutan Microwave Link and 'Total Solutions Project', an IT and e-governance project that aims to make half of Bhutan's population computer literate.

Under the SDP programme in Bhutan, the Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB) has identified projects that are crucial to socio-economic development including drinking water schemes, irrigation channels, farm roads, etc. So far, 1259 projects have been identified in two phases, for which 90% funds have been released for the 440 projects in phase one. Being at the grassroots level, these projects impart high visibility to India and help build goodwill amongst the people of Bhutan towards India.

### **Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Maldives**

The bilateral aid projects in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Maldives are identified mutually by India and the concerned countries keeping in view the needs of the people and in synchronization with the development of the countries where they are implemented. Projects are chosen with a view to enhance India's profile, strengthen relations and create goodwill. As a close and friendly neighbour, India has also been providing humanitarian aid and assistance to Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Maldives on times of natural disasters and calamities.

India is undertaking projects in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Maldives. Many of these are focused on creating permanent assets, particularly in the area of infrastructure. These projects would increase India's presence on a long term basis and enhance our affinity with the citizens of that country. Where possible, we are also involving private sector through the tendering process.

Several projects in all four countries have been completed and are at various stages of planning and implementation. In this context, following are the major projects:

#### **Bangladesh:**

- i. Construction of Kala Bhaban Project for the Department of Theatre and Music Faculty at the University of Dhaka;
- ii. Construction of core shelters in 11 cyclone affected villages in Bangladesh  
In Bangladesh, projects like Kala Bhaban and construction of core shelters will create assets on the ground.

#### **Sri Lanka:**

- i. Rehabilitation of Kankesanthurai Port in Northern Sri Lanka;
- ii. Restoration of railway lines in Northern Sri Lanka;
- iii. Construction of Cultural Centre and restoration of stadium in Jaffna;
- iv. Assistance in the construction of houses for the Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in Northern Sri Lanka;

- v. Construction of Vocational Training Centres in Northern, Eastern and Central Provinces of Sri Lanka;
- vi. Various other projects in the areas of cultural cooperation, infrastructure in health and education.

During the visit of EAM between November 25-28, 2010, EAM participated in the ground breaking ceremony for the railway project in Northern Sri Lanka being taken up under an Indian line of credit as well as the ground breaking ceremony for construction of a pilot project of 1000 houses for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) of Northern Sri Lanka. Work on the Kankesanthurai Port is also going on schedule. Other projects including the restoration of a stadium in Jaffna, vocational training centres, etc. are at various stages of planning and processing. EAM also handed over tractors and agricultural implements to revive the livelihood of the IDPs. While deciding on the projects, the sentiments of the people is kept in mind, as well as consultations undertaken with various stakeholders.

### **Myanmar:**

- i. Kaladan Multi-model Transit Transport Project for connectivity to the North-East;
- ii. Rhi-Tiddim Road;
- iii. Tamu-Kalewa-Kalmeyo (TKK Road); and
- iv. Various other projects for railways, transmission lines and capacity building

The work on the Kaladan Multi-Model Transit Transport Project is proceeding on schedule and lines of credit have been extended to Myanmar of US\$ 60 millions for railway equipment and US\$ 64 millions for transmission lines.

### **Maldives:**

- i. Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism Studies, Male (Hotel Management Training Institute).
- II. The various projects in Maldives are also being monitored at various stages of approval.

### **Mongolia**

Two highly visible projects on capacity building and human resource development in Mongolia have been set up with our assistance. These are

(i) **Rajiv Gandhi Vocational Training Centre (RGVTC)** : The Centre was inaugurated by Vice-President K.R.Narayanan in September 1996. It has training facilities eight different fields such as Auto Mechanic, electrician, Gem Stone Cutting/polishing, etc. The Centre is now called Rajiv Gandhi Art and Production School (RGAPS).

(ii) **Atal Bihari Vajpayee Centre for Excellence In Information & Communication Technology [ABVCE]** : The Atal Bihari Vajpayee Centre for Excellence in Information & Communication Technology was set up in October 2002 with a grant of US dollar one Million by Government of India. The ABVCE has facilities such as Videoconferencing, Data Networking Lab, Software Lab, Lecture Hall etc. The Video Conferencing facility at the Centre is now connected to 18 Aimag (provincial) capitals.

In Mongolia, the Government has decided to send two experts from National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) to Ulaanbaatar to inspect the existing facilities at the Rajiv Gandhi Art and Production School (RGAPS) and recommend upgrading of existing facilities and introduction of new facilities, if required, after consultations with Director of RGAPS. The above work is being undertaken by the Technical Cooperation Division of this Ministry.

### **Afghanistan**

India's assistance programme in Afghanistan, being implemented in close coordination with the Afghan government, has been in key areas of infrastructure generation and rehabilitation, health, human resource development, education etc and is virtually spread over the whole of Afghanistan. India's assistance programme places particular emphasis on capacity building and human resource development. Despite daunting logistical and security challenges, two major GOI-funded infrastructure projects have been completed— construction of 218 km road from Zaranj to Delaram in Nimroz province in Southern Afghanistan and the construction of 220 KV Transmission Line from Pul-e-Khumri to Kabul (202 km) together with a 220/110/20 kV sub-station in Chimtala. Construction of Afghanistan's new Parliament Building, a symbol of the common commitment of both countries to pluralism and democracy, commenced recently and is scheduled for completion within 36 months. Another ongoing infrastructure project being built with GOI assistance involves the construction of Salma Dam in Herat Province. India's assistance programme in Afghanistan has been substantially enhanced from 2009-10 by a 35% increase in scholarships for students and others coming to India, underlining our commitment to assisting Afghanistan in capacity building and human resource development. We also have a number of Small Development Projects under implementation – quick gestation projects that have a direct and visible impact on local communities.

India's assistance programme in Afghanistan has earned it tremendous goodwill among the ordinary people there, cutting across the ethnic and geographic divides. This has been borne out most recently by opinion surveys conducted by reputed international organizations such as Gallup and BBC/ABC/ARD which found that India topped the list of countries viewed favourably by the Afghan people, and that too by a large margin, far ahead of US, Germany, Iran, Britain, Pakistan and other countries or organizations.

# **PLAN OF ACTION OF THE FRAMEWORK FOR COOPERATION OF THE INDIA-AFRICA FORUM SUMMIT**

## **Introduction**

In order to deepen the India-Africa strategic partnership to promote sustainable development, and to implement the outcomes of the First India-Africa Forum Summit, the two sides have jointly developed this Plan of Action, with a view to implementing the thematic areas that are contained in the Framework for Cooperation. The Plan of Action is established for a period of 4 years and will be subjected to review, adaptation and enhancement during and after that period.

## **1. ECONOMIC COOPERATION**

### **i. Agriculture**

To enhance agricultural education, science and research, India will provide 25 PhD and 50 Masters' scholarships per annum for four years to African students in agriculture in Indian Universities/Institutions. The scholarships will cover different disciplines in agriculture. In order to ensure equitable distribution, the AU Commission will coordinate the process of selecting the prospective candidates in conjunction with the Government of India and its embassies in Africa.

#### **India will also provide:**

- Customized short-term trainings related to transferable skills focusing on training of trainers who will transfer expertise to stakeholders at national level;
- Targeted visits of Indian professionals for field demonstrations based on mutually agreed objectives and mission with beneficiary stakeholders;
- On-the-spot consultations and in-country trainings;
- Provision of essential hardware and software in field demonstrations; and
- Exchange of literature, seed, and planting materials, as well as sharing of best practices in agriculture.

The areas to be covered under this programme will endeavour to include management of livestock and fisheries; management of commodity boards; irrigation and water conservation; and capacity building in the area of agro-processing.



## **ii. Trade, Industry and Investment**

The two sides recognize the need to expand two-way trade, greater market access and investment facilitation and agree to the following:

- India will establish an India-Africa Institute of Foreign Trade based on the model of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade. The institute will provide professional education in the field of International trade and management including studies pertaining to the public and private sectors in Africa. In addition, the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) will provide customized capacity building programmes on international trade and business over a four-year period through the existing bilateral arrangements. This will provide capacity building as the process for the establishment of an India-Africa Institute of Foreign Trade is pursued.
- India will also establish an India-Africa Diamond Institute on the model of the Indian Diamond Institute in an African country. The Institute will help to develop African capacities and skills in processing, polishing, and grading raw diamonds.
- India's Duty-Free and Tariff Preference (DFTP) Scheme for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in Africa, which has been widely welcomed and which allows access for African goods and services to the growing Indian market, will be continued. Information sharing on the DFTP scheme has been carried out through various fora and will be enhanced under this Plan of Action.
- To enhance private sector interaction and building of entrepreneurship and business-to-business linkages, the following initiatives will be undertaken:
  - Preparation of an India-Africa Business Guide to highlight opportunities on both sides for trade and investment, through the Chambers of Commerce of the two sides;
  - Organization of Business Councils or meetings at the Regional level between Indian and African economic operators, in order to examine business opportunities offered by both economies; and
  - Upgrading industrial supply-side capacities and enhancing competitiveness; and exchange of best practices between African and Indian Investment Promotion Agencies.

## **iii. Small and Medium- Scale Enterprises (SMEs)**

Small and Medium-Scale Enterprises are at the core of economic development through the private sectors of Africa and India. They contribute to exports, transfer of technology, employment generation, development of regional trade and entrepreneurship. In this respect and to promote the development of capacities and support transfer of technology, the following actions will be undertaken:

- India will establish ten (10) vocational training centers in Africa through the National Small Industries Corporation. Thereafter, it will support existing vocational training institutions in Africa.
- India will offer generous Lines of Credit on concessional terms to a large number of African countries; undertake programmes for development of capacity building in Africa and support the Chambers of Commerce in India to hold India-Africa Annual Conclave and other similar initiatives.
- Programmes to provide enabling infrastructure and conducive operating environment for SMEs and Small and Medium-Scale Industries (SMIs) in Africa will be created as well as joint ventures between African and Indian SMEs including the development of business guides for the establishment of SMEs in Africa and India as a means of youth employment.

#### **iv. Finance**

- Recognizing that finance is critical to the implementation of the Plan of Action, India announced at IAFS 2008 that it will provide about 5.4 billion United States Dollars in Lines of Credit to African countries and institutions over the 5-year period. A separate provision of 500 million USD to develop capacities in Africa, of which nearly half is committed to this continental level Joint Plan of Action is envisaged..
- These financial provisions will support the integration of Africa through:
  - Provision of regional infrastructure among other programmes;
  - Provision of support for capacity building and development of a Pan-African Stock Exchanges;
  - Consultations between African Ministers of Finance and Economic Development and their Indian counterparts to share experiences; and
  - Sharing of experiences on the mobilization of domestic savings and the strengthening of Micro-Finance institutions in Africa.

#### **v. Regional Integration**

- Regional integration is an important objective for Africa and various efforts to harmonize the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) through the promotion of integrated projects are ongoing. India has subsisting engagements with many of the RECs and has developed an implementation process for this purpose. Consequently, India agrees to consider financial support to mutually agreed integration programmes carried out by the African Union and the RECs, especially those of inter-regional and continental importance. India will provide a line of credit of USD 300 million to support regional integrational infrastructure projects through the AU.

## **2. POLITICAL COOPERATION**

Bearing in mind that peace, security and development are inter-linked, the two sides agree to:

### **i. Peace and Security**

- Enhance the capacity of African Governments, institutions and various stakeholders in the implementation of UN Resolution 1325 on women's role in the peace process;
- Cooperate in efforts to combat illicit drug trafficking and abuse, as well as small arms and light weapons; and
- Cooperate in developing and implementing training of trainers towards enhancing the civilian component of peacekeeping operations.

### **ii. Civil Society and Good Governance**

- Strengthen the African Court on Human and People's Rights through sharing best practices, capacity building of the court and provision of equipment and the mobilization of resources for the activities of the court;
- Promote the interaction of legal experts/lawyers through the Bar Associations, and cooperation in legal research methodology and on emerging international legal issues and regulatory framework that support outsourcing; and
- Exchange experiences on best practices, research and human resources within the framework of decentralization and local governance alongside the conference of Ministers of Public Services and Administration and ECOSOC.

## **3. SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**

### **i. Science and Technology**

Conscious of the fact that science, technology, research and development are fundamentals and major catalysts for socio-economic activities, the two sides agree to the following:

- Proposals for enhancement of research, development and scientific exchanges involving programmes and events to discuss issues of policy transfer of technology mechanisms through the institutional strengthening of three institutions and capacity building will be undertaken;
- India-Africa Science and Technology Conference will be organized to plan an agenda;
- India will support institutional strengthening in areas of mutual interest;
- India will provide training in areas like HIV, TB and Malaria;

- India will support Africa for its research and development efforts through specific fellowships named after CV Raman which will be implemented bilaterally. These will cover medium term and long term support for researchers and post doctoral fellows; and
- Consideration will be given to the proposal for the training of journalists in scientific journalism.

## **ii. Information and Communication Technology (ICT)**

Recognizing the contribution made by Information Technology to the economic development of Africa and India:

- Both sides welcome the establishment of the Pan-African e-network project which supports the developmental goals of African countries in the education, health and communication sectors. Both sides agree to the early completion and implementation of this important project.
- India will establish an India-Africa Institute of Information Technology which would bridge the gap between academia and industry, and serve as a think-tank for the professional development of IT and provide capacity building and education for the growth of IT in Africa.
- India will support the African Union's initiative in this sector and support capacity building to this end through the ITEC programme. Africa's desire to have India participate in the implementation of the interconnection of all African capital cities with broadband network by 2012 and work with Africa to build continental and national e-strategies including the development of all e-applications would be jointly developed by both sides.

## **4. COOPERATION IN SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING**

Recognizing the importance of human capacity enhancement in the attainment of socio-development objectives, the two sides agree to the following:

### **i. Education**

- India will establish an India-Africa Institute of Education Planning and Administration, which will provide academic and professional guidance to agencies and institutions engaged in educational planning and administration in Africa.
- India will consider collaborative development of high quality open source Overseas Development Learning training materials for teachers and various categories of school managers.

- India will develop training workshops on local and low cost production of educational materials;
- India will assist in the development of TVET programmes aligned with labor market demands for both formal and informal economies, and global economic trends.

## **ii. Health**

- India will organize an India-Africa workshop on traditional medicine to highlight the commonalities in approach and sharing of experience.
- Both sides will strengthen public and private sectors collaboration in the areas of pharmaceutical production and procurement in Africa and India in the framework of pharmaceutical manufacturing plan for Africa;
- Both sides will support collaboration in research and development in traditional medicine and practices in Africa and India;
- Both sides agree to share experiences, specialized expertise and best practices in healthcare systems development and community health programmes;
- India will collaborate with Africa in training and continuing education for health professionals; the Pan-African e-network tele-medicine component supports CME and the training of health professionals in various sectors already part of ongoing bilateral and regional programmes.

## **iii. Water and Sanitation**

- India will organize seven training programmes in specialized areas by reputed training/research/academic institutions in India. Up to 50 participants per course will be invited through the African Union.
- India will also support African institutions and initiatives in the field of integrated water management through proposals to be mutually decided.
- India will fully support Africa in attaining the MDGs in the areas of water and sanitation.

## **iv. Culture and Sports**

- Africa and India will endeavor to jointly:
  - (i) Promote film and TV cultural programme exchanges;
  - (ii) Organize joint international training for trainers in the field of cultural goods protection and cultural industries;
  - (iii) Jointly study the establishment of regional laboratories for doping control in Africa and India;
  - (iv) Organize joint international trainings of trainers in the field of sports management and development, including sports medical care; and

- (v) Organize youth cultural and sports festivals through events like Africa-India Week and by tapping the talent of the large African student presence in India through the Indian Council for Cultural Relations.

#### **v. Poverty Eradication**

- Support for the goal of poverty eradication through the following specific programmes will be undertaken:
  - Organization of seminars/exhibitions across Africa, including through public/private partnerships;
  - Construction of prototype low-cost houses in 5 African countries, one per region
  - Exchange of cost-sharing experiences in the construction of demonstration houses in 5 African countries, one per region.
- Both sides agree to share best practices in the development of credit unions, especially in rural settings;
- Promotion of micro-finance projects in Africa.

#### **5. TOURISM**

Recognizing that tourism provides economic benefits and promotes friendship and socio-economic understanding among nations, the two sides agree as follows:

- India will sponsor a study towards the harmonization of policies and norms in the tourism sector in cooperation with relevant institutions in Africa;
- Both sides will strengthen partnership with the private sector especially travel agencies, hotels, airlines and other tourism related establishments, as well as the media, with a view to advancing tourism development between the two regions; and
- Both sides will promote general tourism and offering joint tourism packages, including eco-tourism, to utilize the geographical diversity of the two sides.

#### **6. INFRASTRUCTURE, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT**

Recognizing that infrastructure, energy and environment are fundamental to the economic growth of developing countries, the two sides agree as follows:

- Training programmes for up to 50 African participants (annually) at the National Institute for Training of Highway Engineers (NITHE) will be provided by India.

- i. Energy**
- Note that India has actively engaged with Africa through the India Africa Hydrocarbon Conferences and welcomes India's commitment to work with Africa to process its resources including by establishing refineries in some countries.
  - Define together with the RECs, the regional power pools and national governments concrete projects in the field of hydropower, wind and bio-energy in African countries, which have high potential; and
  - Cooperation to explore renewable sources of energy in Africa.

**ii. Transport**

**a. Maritime Transport**

- Develop and promote mutual assistance and cooperation in the area of maritime safety and security, prevention and protection of the main environment and port users;
- Work for the creation of regional coast guard networks (North, West, Central, East and South) and surveillance facilities;
- Develop Africa's training in the area of maritime and harbor administration; and
- Collaborate and exchange information in the area of maritime transport, harbor management, safety, security and preventing, controlling and combating pollution, particularly through training, exchange of skills and knowledge programmes;

In all these areas more specific proposals will be developed by experts from the two sides.

**b. Air Transport**

- Coordination of the respective external air transport policies; and
- Identification and development of hubs for air bridge to support airlines operations between the two regions and beyond.

The African side will provide a concept note on these in order to create a dialogue between African and Indian authorities.

**c. Land Transport**

- Status Quo Assessment of the Trans African Highway (TAH) Network; and
- Development of a road safety strategy for the African continent.

The African side will develop and provide India with concept notes on both projects.

**iii. Environment**

- Elaboration of specific programs to combat desertification and climate change which constitute major challenges for the international community; and

- Sharing of experiences on projects for carbon development mechanisms.

TERI's MOU with ECA and support to the Africa Climate Policy Centre is also recognised. The Indian initiative to have an African section at the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit annually organized by TERI in February in New Delhi initiated since 2009 will be utilized to foster closer engagement among the environmental policy makers in India and Africa.

## **7. MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION**

Bearing in mind that closer linkage in the field of media and communication will generate greater synergy in their relationship, the two sides agree to:

- Cooperate in human resource training in the area of modern corporate communications using modern technology (ICT) and the development of language skills; and
- Provide assistance in the production of documentary videos, which are effective in disseminating information on specific missions or interventions.

Other programmes in this area could be undertaken through existing ITEC programmes and through the Public Diplomacy Division in India. These would be discussed between the African Union Commission and the Permanent Mission of India to the AU. Similarly, an exchange of media delegations, editors' conferences and training of media persons will form part of the initiatives that India is taking in Africa. These will be undertaken regionally and bilaterally.

8. With respect to the institutions to be established in Africa, namely, India-Africa Institute of Foreign Trade; India-Africa Diamond Institute; India-Africa Institute of Information Technology; India-Africa Institute of Education Planning and Administration; Pan-African Stock Exchange and India-Africa Vocational Training Centers, the host countries undertake to facilitate their establishment and sustenance including:

- Land for the Institutions;
- Building infrastructure;
- Budgetary provision for recurring costs;
- Governance structures for administration and running of the Institutions; and
- Business plan for future development and sustainability.

On its part India will establish and equip the institutions and maintain them for a period of three years.



As on 24/02/2011

**Summary of LOCs extended to West African Countries**

(Figures in US \$ Million)

Country	ECOWAS	TEAM 9	NEPAD	BILATERAL	TOTAL
Angola	-	-	-	85.00	85.00
Benin	18.80	-	-	15.00	33.80
Burkina Faso	15.14	55.97	-	5.00	71.11
Cameroon	-	-	-	37.66	37.66
Cape Verde	-	-	-	@@	-
Central African Republic	-	-	-	29.50	29.50
Chad	-	50.00	-	@	50.00
Congo (DRC)	-	-	33.50	25.00	58.50
Congo(ROC)	-	-	-	-	-
Cote'd Ivoire	-	52.30	-	114.00	166.30
Equatorial Guinea	-	15.00	-	-	15.00
Gabon	-	-	-	14.50	14.50
Gambia	20.00	-	16.70	-	36.70
<b>Ghana</b>	<b>45.01</b>	<b>85.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>63.72</b>	<b>193.73</b>
Guinea	28.51	-	-	-	28.51
Guinea Bissau	-	25.00#	-	-	25.00
Liberia					
<b>Mali</b>	<b>30.00</b>	<b>102.00*</b>	<b>20.62</b>	<b>51.00</b>	<b>203.62</b>
Mauritania^	-	-	-	-	-
Niger	-	20.00	17.00	-	37.00
Nigeria	-	-	-	100.00##	100.00
<b><u>Sao Tome &amp; Principe</u></b>	-	-	-	@@@	-
<b>Senegal</b>	<b>29.83</b>	<b>73.00</b>	<b>7.08</b>	<b>37.87</b>	<b>142.78</b>
Sierra Leone	29.45	-	-	45.00	74.50
Togo	33.04	-	-	-	33.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>249.78</b>	<b>478.27</b>	<b>94.90</b>	<b>623.25</b>	<b>1446.20</b>

@During the DRC FM's visit on 29.10.2009, US\$263mn worth fresh LOCs announced.

@@During Cape Verde FM's visit on 20.11.2009, US\$5mn LOC was announced.

@@@During STP FM's visit on 1.12.2009, US\$5mn LOC was announced.

# The response of the new Guinea Bissau government and specific recommendations of our Ambassador in Dakar are awaited. LOCs for US\$ 15million have been earmarked and for balance US\$ 10 million fresh requests to be processed.

\* Out of US\$102 mn, US\$20 mn is for utilization on the Cote d'Ivoire side for the Electricity Transmission Line.

^ The data does not include figures for Mauritania as the LOC has been withheld following the coup.

**##In Dec.2009, Nigeria said that it would use this LOC for 4 power generation projects. DPRs received in Feb.2010. Under process.**

**The above list does not include approval of US\$100 million to ECOWAS Bank(EBID) (5/2010)**

**16. The Committee appreciate the efforts made by the Government towards providing aid and projects undertaken under the Head 'Aid and Loans' to developing African, Latin American and Caribbean Countries as well as neighbouring countries. The Committee, however, feel that there is still ample scope for making investment in projects for creating permanent assets particularly in the area of infrastructure in all those countries. The Committee, therefore, reiterate that a ceaseless effort should be made to strengthen our relations with these countries to achieve our anticipated objectives in view of various competing influences operating in the region.**

**(Recommendation No.12)**

17. The Committee was informed that Tala Hydroelectric Project (HEP) in Bhutan was the only Plan project that had recently been completed. The Detailed Project Report Cost of Tala HEP was Rs. 1048 crores as per 1993 price level, which was revised to Rs. 3580 crores in September 2002. However, the final completion cost of the project was Rs. 4125.84 crores in 2007. The Committee did not agree with Ministry's view that the Tala HEP was completed successfully in the best possible cost and timeframe and had expressed anguish over such huge cost overrun in the project. The Committee had strongly recommend that the Ministry should devote sufficient time for conducting adequate survey and investigation so as to frame more realistic estimates at the Detailed Project Report (DPR) stage so that such cost and time overrun might not recur.

The Committee had drawn the attention of the Ministry towards the low Plant Load Factor since the Tala Hydroelectric Project (HEP) started working and suggested to undertake technical review and appraisal before identification of any other Hydroelectric Project in the region. The Committee had advised the Ministry to seek the views of the experts in the field of HEP and consultants about the feasibility, long term sustainability and economic returns from the Hydroelectric projects in the region.

The Committee had noted that in the light of India's ambitious plan to double the target of hydro-power development in Bhutan to 10,000 MW for export in India by 2020 many more projects were expected to begin shortly. The Committee had recommended that proper technical and feasibility studies including Environmental Impact and Risk Assessment, post-facto review and audit of the project should be undertaken and the entire process from identification to completion of the project should be evaluated vigorously.

18. The Ministry of External Affairs in their action taken reply have stated as under:

“India extends technical and financial assistance to the Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB) in implementing hydroelectric power projects (HEPs) which belong to RGoB. In the case of the Tala HEP, the Detailed Project Report (DPR) cost was based on 1993 price levels, while the project was commissioned in 2006. Therefore, the cost escalation was mainly due to inflation in the intervening thirteen years. There were also some unavoidable design changes during the construction stage of the project due to geo-technical findings (including surprise geological findings) and further optimization of project components, which could not have been envisaged in the DPR stage. The construction was also hit by unforeseen situations such as the unprecedented flood in the year 2000, that escalated the cost.

In the DPR, the Plant Load Factor (PLF) is indicated as 54.46% on average year generation and 44.34% on 90% dependable year energy generation. The PLF has been exceeded in 2008 and 2009 (51.60% and 49.20% respectively based on actual energy generation). Lower PLF in 2006 and 2007 was due to partial commissioning of machines and initial teething problems. The power plant is generating to its optimum as per the river flow condition without spillage from the dam.

Care has been taken to ensure that adequate technical review and appraisal is undertaken before identifying/commissioning new HEPs in Bhutan. Views of experts in the field and of specialized consultants have been solicited and incorporated in the preparation of DPRs for the new HEPs with regard to feasibility, long-term sustainability and economic returns. Some DPRs such as for Sankosh, Wangchhu and Bunakha HEPs have been updated to take into account current and projected timelines and cost estimates. There are adequate mechanisms in place to review and monitor the progress and working of the HEPs during and after implementation such as the Empowered Joint Group and the Project Monitoring Committee.”

19. The Committee are not satisfied with the reply of the Ministry that care has been taken to ensure that adequate technical review and appraisal is undertaken in identifying/commissioning new Hydro-electric Power Project (HEP) in Bhutan and there are adequate mechanism in place to review and monitor the progress and working of projects during and after implementation. It is beyond the comprehension of the Committee that inspite of due care being taken and existence of monitoring mechanism, very high cost and time overrun has become a regular feature in every project. It means the present system is not effective and it requires a indepth review. The Committee had not expected a routine reply from the Ministry in the matter rather they had asked the Ministry to review the entire process from the identification to completion of the new hydropower projects through proper technical and feasibility studies with a view to develop a more effective mechanism to avoid such frequent cost escalations and time overrun in case of each and every project undertaken/going to be undertaken by the Government. The Committee expect that the Government will seriously consider the views of the Committee, implement them and apprise the Committee about the outcome within forty five days.

**(Recommendation No.14)**

20. Government of India had made various commitments to provide aid for relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction of war affected people and areas in Sri Lanka. The Committee had noted that as against the announcement of assistance of Rs. 500 crores, only Rs. 90 crores had been budgeted and Rs. 63.49 crores utilized. The Committee had found that many of the projects were at the level of planning. The Committee were of the view that Government should identify and approve the project carefully keeping in mind the sentiments of people of Sri Lanka and initiate its execution in an efficient manner in consultation with various stakeholders so as to avoid cost and time overruns.

21. The Ministry of External Affairs in their action taken reply have stated as under:

“India is assisting Sri Lanka in resettlement and reconstruction of war-affected Northern and Eastern Provinces. Of the allocated amount of Rs.500 crores during financial year 2009-10, the final utilization for the FY 2009-10 is Rs. 68.96 crores. Initially our focus had been purely humanitarian considering the large number of IDPs

emerging out of the conflict zone. We followed this up with assistance for their resettlement which included deploying seven Indian demining teams in Northern Sri Lanka; supplying 7800 MT of shelter material and 95,000 of agricultural implements packs for the returning IDPs; conducting a month long artificial limb fitment camp by a reputed Indian NGO in Northern Sri Lanka; supplying 4 lakh cement bags to help repair their damaged house; supplying seeds and 500 tractors and other agricultural implements for revival of livelihood activities of farmers in Northern Sri Lanka.

In the rehabilitation and reconstruction phase, several other projects are being taken up. During the visit of EAM between November 25-28, 2010, EAM participated in the ground breaking ceremony for the railway project in Northern Sri Lanka being taken up under an Indian line of credit as well as the ground breaking ceremony for construction of a pilot project of 1000 houses for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) of Northern Sri Lanka. Work on the Kankesanthurai Port is also going on schedule. Other projects including the restoration of a stadium in Jaffna, vocational training centres, etc. are at various stages of planning and processing. EAM also handed over tractors and agricultural implements to revive the livelihood of the IDPs. While deciding on the projects, the sentiments of the people is kept in mind, as well as consultations undertaken with various stakeholders.”

**22. The Committee note that the projects for resettlement and reconstruction in Sri Lanka have been planned in consultation with Sri Lankan authorities, provincial Government, local bodies and people of northern and eastern province. The projects have been identified based on the immediate requirements and the prevailing situation on the ground but nothing noticeable has been done so far. It is very discouraging that out of Rs.500 crores, only Rs 68.96 crores could be utilized during financial Year 2009-2010. The Committee express their concern over this situation and would like to have an explanation as to why such a situation has arisen and what steps are being taken to remedy the matter. The Committee hope that funds allocated for projects of resettlement and reconstruction in Sri Lanka will be utilized utterly through more committed efforts because the war-affected people need timely help and delay in providing assistance will defeat the objective of such a noble commitment. The Committee may be apprised of the situation and developments taking place in Sri Lanka on regular basis.**

**(Recommendation No. 16)**

23. The Committee had noted that the Ministry of External Affairs had treated the 'Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme' as a flagship programme of Government of India reflecting the true spirit of South-South Cooperation. But the enhancement in expenditure from Rs. 70 crores at BE 2009-10 to Rs. 85 crores at RE 2009-10 stage and BE 2010-11 at Rs. 100 crores was mainly due to revision in procedural expenditures. That showed that very little addition in projects/programmes being organized in those countries. The Committee were of the view that under the programme, Government must look beyond the IT sector to diversify and propel the programme to the next phase. In ITEC programmes India should capitalize on its expertise in other emerging sectors like pharma, biotechnology etc. that would also help in the capacity building in the recipient countries. The Committee had also desired that the requests from those countries should get preference and if required fund allocation should be augmented at RE stage.

24. The Ministry of External Affairs in their action taken reply have stated as under:

"In order to ensure that the ITEC participants carry with them an overall positive impression about the ITEC programme and the latter has the right impact, Ministry took measures with regard to (a) improvement of living conditions for participants during their stay in India and (b) upgradation of training facilities. Apart from these factors, increased utilization of ITEC slots during 2009-10 as compared to previous year and organisation of specialized courses in the fields of (i) Wind Turbine Technology, (ii) Mineral Exploration, (iii) Geographic Information System, (iv) Leadership Programme for Postmasters and Managers and (v) Solar Energy Technology contributed in the enhancement of budget from Rs. 70 crores at BE 2009-10 to Rs. 85 crores at RE 2009-10. It may be mentioned here that due to India's advancement in IT sector, developing countries look towards India for training facilities in this field. Therefore, the share of IT slots in the ITEC is higher as compared to slots in other sectors.

2. Under ITEC, Ministry conducts 200 short, medium and long term courses in a variety of fields such as IT, Linguistics, Finance, Accounts, Audit and Banking, Planning and Administration, Management and Governance, Crime Records, Rural Development and Parliamentary Studies. As regards courses in pharma and biotechnology are concerned, the Ministry conducts a course each on drugs and pharmaceuticals every year through National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Mohali and on biotechnology through The Energy and Research Institute (TERI) respectively.

3. For the year 2010-11, Ministry has decided to increase the number of courses to be organized to 232 courses as opposed to about 200 courses organized during 2009-10. Similarly, number of ITEC slots has also been increased during 2010-11.

4. ITEC is a demand-driven, response-oriented and fully-funded programme of Government of India. Since its inception in 1964, ITEC has expanded manifold and today covers 159 partner countries spread across Asia and the Pacific, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Eastern Europe and CIS countries. As and when a request is received from any of our ITEC partner countries seeking training in a particular field, it is considered favourably.”

**25. The Committee are happy to note that the Ministry have decided to increase the number of courses and number of Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC) slots for the year 2010-11. The Ministry have also informed that as and when a request is received from any ITEC partner country seeking training in particular field, it is considered favourably. The Committee hope that Government will provide all kind of support for ITEC Programme and that it will certainly strengthen our position among partner countries. The Committee enquire as to whether all requests from partner countries have been honoured and whether there are areas of need which we have been unable to meet e.g. scholarships for medical education. The Committee desire that the Ministry should secure optimal utilization of slots available on offer and funds allocated to ITEC Programme. The Committee recommend that Government should take all necessary initiatives to ensure that paucity of funds does not hamper these programmes at any level.**

**(Recommendation No. 21)**

26. Issuance of e-passport also called biometric passport was an ambitious project initiated by the Ministry in June 2008. The Ministry in Annual Report 2008-09 had stated that based on the experience gained from the Pilot Project, it was proposed to start issuance of e-passports of ordinary category by the end of 2009. The Committee were given to understand that the inordinate delay in the launch of project was on account of non-procurement of e-booklets from Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL) due to technical reasons. The Committee had been further informed that the Technical Committee headed by Director General, NIC was in the process of freezing the technical specifications of inlays. The Committee had, therefore, recommend that Ministry should coordinate with Technical Committee for an early finalization of technical specifications in the project followed by initiation of global tendering process so that the project could become feasible and could be implemented on pan-India basis at the earliest possible opportunity. The Committee had expressed that they should be apprised of the progress made at regular intervals in this regard.

27. The Ministry of External Affairs in their action taken reply have stated as under:

“The technical bids of e-passport inlays were opened as per established procedure on the scheduled date on July 26, 2010. Following this, the Tender Committee decided that the financial bids would be opened only after receiving fresh clearance from the Technical Committee and a fresh security clearance from the Ministry of Home Affairs for the firm, M/s GEMALTO (a French company) against whom a communication was received from the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) that this company is also supplying the same chip to the Government of Pakistan. The final decision on the award of contract will be taken only after the receipt of technical and security clearance from Ministry of Home Affairs. The matter is being followed up.”

**28. The Committee note that after considerable persuasion, finally the technical bids of e-passport inlays were opened in July, 2010. However, opening of the financial bids is still awaiting the fresh clearance from Technical Committee and fresh security clearance from the Ministry of Home Affairs for the firm engaged for supplying the chips. The Committee hope that the matter will be followed up vigorously and after getting the necessary clearances, the final decision on the award of contract will be taken without any further delay. In Committee’s view the report of Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) should be seriously considered from security point of view before awarding the contract to the selected company for supplying chips for e-passports. The Committee further expect that the project “e-passport” will see the light of day at the earliest. The Committee may be apprised of further developments in this regard.**

**(Recommendation No. 22)**

29. The Committee had repeatedly suggested that MEA should chalk out a comprehensive plan to either acquire suitable properties or to take up the matter with the respective State Governments for early allotment of suitable land for the construction of Passport offices as well as the residential complexes on priority basis. The Committee were deeply concerned to note that out of total of 37 Passport Offices, 19 Passport Offices were still functioning from rented buildings. Though 8 Passport Offices had already purchased land, the construction of their own building was yet to start. The Committee had desired that due care should be taken in formulation of building designs and structure, based on futuristic projection of Passport Seva Kendras/e-passport and the increase in number of Passport Seekers and others availing of the services of Passport Offices. The



Committee had also reiterated that efforts should be made to acquire land for the rest of the Passport Offices at the earliest.

The Committee had taken a note of the fact that various projects undertaken by the Ministry were not completed within schedule which results in huge cost and time overruns. The Committee had, therefore, desired that MEA should prepare stipulated timeframe to ensure quick execution and timely completion of projects. Stringent monitoring mechanism should also be put in place to avoid cost and time overruns and for ensuring optimum utilization of resources.

30. The Ministry of External Affairs in their action taken reply have stated as under:

“There are set procedures and norms of Government of India for monitoring and supervising the projects taken up by various Ministries and Departments.

i The Ministry follows these procedures and norms scrupulously.

Upon receiving the detailed project proposals, the Ministry scrutinizes and as per prevailing norms approves the proposals. Internal Finance Division scrutinizes the cost estimates in detail and conveys its concurrence.

ii The overall supervision is done in consultation with the concerned Indian Mission on the ground. Projects have provisions for Project Monitoring Committees which include representatives of the Ministry, concerned Mission and stake-holders.

To implement the project credible implementing agencies are employed. All possible mechanisms are put in place for feedback, evaluation and to ensure that the targeted population is benefited.

### **Passport Offices**

It is submitted that in the last 2-3 years, MEA has constructed passport office buildings/residences at Bangalore, Jaipur, Lucknow and Bhuvneshwar. At present, there are 37 Passport Offices, out of which 19 are functioning from GOI/MEA-owned buildings. The remaining 18 are functioning in rented buildings. However, Ministry has already purchased land for the following 8 Passport offices. The process of construction is regularly monitored and the latest position is as under:

1. **Guwahati:** CPWD has been asked to revise drawings due to change in the requirement of space in passport Office building in the wake of opening of Mini Passport Seva Kendras.
2. **Jalandhar:** CPWD has submitted a Preliminary Estimate amounting to Rs.13.33 crore and is being scrutinized by the Ministry. Drawings are still awaited from CPWD.
3. **Srinagar:** MEA has approved the Concept Drawings and CPWD has been asked to submit Preliminary Estimate. Work for construction of access road is in progress at site. The speed of construction is hampered by law and order problems in J&K.

4. **Surat :** Preliminary Estimate amounting to Rs,18.19 crore has been approved by MEA and NBCC has submitted drawings to Surat Municipal Corporation for approval.
5. **Mumbai:** The basement has already been constructed and financial bids are being opened by CPWD for construction of superstructure. Ministry has released Rs.9.05 crore for the construction of PO Building.
6. **Vizag:**The construction of Passport Office building is complete and Passport Officer is asked to shift to new premises at the earliest.
7. **Amritsar:** The land has been purchased and NBCC has been awarded the work of construction of Passport Office building. However, due to change in zoning plans of the area, the requisite Floor Area for construction of building is not available. Hence, Principal Secretary, Local Bodies, Government of Punjab, has been requested by the Ministry to restore the original building bye-laws.
8. **Pune:** Transfer of land from PMC to Passport Office is underway. Draft lease deed has been finalized by the Ministry and PO is asked to register the land in the name of Ministry.

Of the remaining 10 Passport Offices, a plot of land admeasuring 2594 sqm has been allotted by the Utrakhand Government at a cost of Rs.57.08 lakh and payment is being made by the Controller of Accounts to acquire the plot after approval of Foreign Secretary. A plot of land admeasuring 22000 sq.ft. has been reserved by State Government of Madhya Pradesh and has asked its Revenue Department to allot the land for construction of Passport Office building. Efforts are on to acquire land at all the remaining locations.

As regards purchase of land for the remaining Passport Offices, State Government of Kerala has offered plot of land to MEA at Thiruvananthapuram which is under consideration of the Ministry. The Ministry through its respective Passport Offices have been actively pursuing the case of allotment of land with respective State Governments. The recommendations of the Committee regarding the purchase of land and futuristic design of the Passport Offices will be kept in mind.

### **China**

The Projects Division is undertaking a number of projects in China like construction of new Chancery Building in Beijing and purchase of plot for Consulate General of Guangzhou. The East Asia Division has limited role in these projects. However, the recommendations of the Standing Committee will be borne in mind while implementing these projects.

## **Nepal and Bhutan**

All efforts are made to ensure that spending by the Ministry and Embassies in Kathmandu and Thimpu adhere to the allocated budget. However, often due to reasons beyond the control of the Division/Missions, payment schedule and the project implementation timelines do not adhere to the schedule of anticipated expenditure. This results from uncertainty arising out of stopping of work, *bandhs*, etc. in Nepal, which is undergoing a political transition. In addition, problems related to law and order hinder implementation of the project and result in delays and consequent cost overruns. Furthermore, some projects as agreed between India and Nepal/Bhutan are implemented by the respective institutions in those countries. Sometimes there are delays in implementation that are not anticipated. More importantly, political imperatives also dictate implementation of the expenditure in order to secure our interests.

There are adequate mechanisms in place to review and monitor the progress of projects being undertaken in Bhutan by GOI such as the Empowered Joint Group (EJG) and the Project Monitoring Committee (PMC). All efforts are made to ensure that there are no time and cost overruns during their implementation and that resources are utilized optimally. Funds are released for projects only upon the receipt and scrutiny of utilization certificates of earlier released funds to ensure that timelines and expenditure schedules are strictly adhered to. The EJG and PMC meet twice a year and extraordinary meetings may be called as required.

## **Eurasian Countries**

A number of projects are being funded under the “Aid to Eurasian Countries” budget head of the Ministry. There have been no cost or time overruns in the implementation of Eurasia Division projects. Some delays have occurred in the initiation of the implementation stage due to various reasons, including tardy procedures on the part of recipient countries. Necessary clauses are included in the agreements signed with the Indian implementing agencies to clearly specify the time schedule of the project. Project monitoring committees are constituted so as to ensure quick execution and timely completion of projects. Meetings of Project Monitoring Committees are held at regular intervals to monitor completion of projects in the stipulated time schedule and with optimum utilization of the funds sanctioned.

## **Afghanistan**

India has undertaken projects in all parts of Afghanistan, in a wide range of sectors, including hydro-electricity, power transmission lines, road construction, industry, telecommunications, information and broadcasting, and capacity building, which have been identified by the Afghan Government as priority areas for

reconstruction and development. At present two mega projects namely construction of Afghan Parliament Building in Kabul and Salma Dam in Herat Province are being undertaken in Afghanistan.

As regards the construction of Afghan Parliament Building the wide difference between estimated costs and the actual bids received and approved are on account of the peculiar and extraordinary conditions in Afghanistan and different threat perceptions of the tendering parties. A Project Review and Monitoring Committee under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (PAI) has been constituted. The Committee quarterly reviews the project to ensure timely completion of the project as per already fixed targets. The Committee convenes review and coordination meetings as and when required to expedite physical progress of the project and give directions for resolving related issues as well as problems, if any, causing hindrance to the physical progress of works.

The main reasons for delay in the construction of Salma Dam are non-availability of riverbed materials, non-availability of explosives, frequent security threats, occurrence of sudden flood in April, 2007 and extremely cold weather conditions in dam site area during January and February, 2008. As regards cost escalation the reasons which contributed are increase in cost of labour, fuel, cement, civil and electro-mechanical works due to instable economic and security situation in Afghanistan, Non-availability of dam fill(shell) material(meant to be sourced originally from the river bed), leading to the need for explosives material for rock-blasting, additional security costs and damage caused by flash flood in April, 2007 and further increase in the cost of imports. In order to ensure timely completion and costs overruns a Project Review and Technical Advisory Committee for the reconstruction and completion of Salma Dam Project in Afghanistan has been constituted. The Committee reviews the utilization of funds, technical aspects, progress of works and special technical problems, if any. The Committee also quarterly review the project to ensure timely completion of the project as per already fixed targets.

### **Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Maldives**

While executing projects in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Maldives, we take utmost care while approving projects and monitoring to ensure timely completion of the project so that the resources are optimally utilized. This is an on-going process.”

**31. The Committee regret that the Ministry have not taken the recommendation made by the Committee in true spirit and they have submitted a routine reply about all projects. The recommendation was specifically related to delay and cost/time overrun in construction of**

**Passport Offices in various parts of the country and not about delays in all projects. However, most of the projects being implemented by the Ministry including construction of Passport Offices are running late resulting into huge cost escalation and time overrun. Instead of accepting the facts and finding the solution, the Ministry has developed a habit of furnishing stereotype replies on the issue. The Committee specifically observe that there have been administrative delays at every stage starting from acquisition/purchase of land to construction of buildings of Passport Offices in various parts of the country. There are delays in approvals, frequent revisions of drawings/plans, award of contract and other formalities and due to such delays several Passport Offices like Guwahati RPO are being run from rental building even after the completion of the process of land acquisition several years back resulting into undue cost and time overruns. The Committee, therefore, reiterate that the construction work should start at the earliest to construct 8 Passport Offices for which the land has already been purchased/acquired in a time bound manner. Simultaneously, sincere efforts should be made to purchase/acquire land for remaining Passport Offices and shift all of them into their own buildings without any further delay.**

**(Recommendation No. 23)**

32. The Committee had noted that the idea of establishment of South Asian University was mooted in the year 2005 with huge expectations and was visualized as a major initiative to build upon the civilizational and historical linkages and the past shared experiences that would enable the countries of the region to rediscover and rebuild connectivity with the people of the region and reflect upon the commonalities of the region. The Committee had noted that the academic activities were expected to begin from August 2010 and the anticipated timeframe for the construction of University was 2014-15.

The Committee were, however, not satisfied with the progress made during the last five years. During this period, only land had been acquired for the University. For the namesake there was a proposal to start academic activities in August/September 2010 in rented premises. Draft Statute, Regulations, Academic Structure and Business plan had not been approved so far. The Committee had expected that the University should emerge as a center of excellence which cater to academic as well as intellectual pursuits. The curriculum should range from the study of deeper and serious issues of Philosophy and Cultural Studies to the study of contemporary Social Science disciplines, Humanities, Management and Technical Studies. The Committee had desired that a well thought out realistic blueprint based on clear intent, aims

and objectives for establishing the university and carrying out academic activities should be formulated before initiating any course randomly. The Committee had also wanted to be informed of the progress at regular intervals.

33. The Ministry of External Affairs in their action taken reply have stated as under:

- “While the idea of establishing a South Asian University was mooted in 2005, the formal Agreement between SAARC Member States to establish the South Asian University (SAU) was signed only on 4 April 2007 during the 14<sup>th</sup> SAARC Summit in New Delhi.
- The SAARC Inter-Governmental Steering Committee was convened in May 2007 to conceptualize the academic contours of the University. The Steering Committee, at its 6<sup>th</sup> meeting in March 2010, finalised the University’s Statutes, Regulations, Academic Structure and Business Plan. The Sixteenth SAARC Summit (April 2010) took note of the work of the Steering Committee and appreciated the progress being made towards establishing the University.
- The SAU Project Office was established on May 7, 2008. The SAU Bill received the approval of both houses of Parliament on 23 December 2008. After receiving the assent of the President of India on 11 January 2009, the South Asian University Act was notified in the Gazette of India on 13 January 2009. The Headquarters Agreement for establishment of the South Asian University in New Delhi was signed between the Government of India and the SAARC Secretariat on 1 December 2008.
- The Academic Structure of the SAU envisages the creation of Faculties for the study of philosophy, history, culture, languages, religion, social sciences and humanities, as well as scientific and technological disciplines such as engineering, life sciences and biotechnology, earth system sciences, physics, chemistry, mathematics, ICT and medicine.
- The courses and research that will be pursued at the SAU are based on the aims, objectives and intent for establishing such a University. The mandate of the SAU has been spelt out in the Inter-Governmental Agreement of 4 April 2007, which envisages the (i) building of a culture of understanding and regional consciousness; (ii) nurturing a new class of liberal, bright and quality leadership; and (iii) building of the capacity of the region in science, technology and other disciplines considered vital for improving the quality of life of the people.
- As the South Asian University’s state-of-the-art campus on its permanent premises is expected to take a few years to complete, academic activities have commenced on 26 August 2010 from rented premises. 50 students from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are already studying at the University.
- The selection of the two courses that were initiated at SAU in August 2010 namely, MA in Development Economics and the Master of Computer Applications, was a well considered decision, having been deliberated upon by the Inter-Governmental Steering Committee and

unanimously approved by all SAARC Member States. The courses were considered as covering vital areas for the SAARC region and designed to fully meet the stated objectives of the University.”

**34. The Committee are not satisfied with the pace of progress made so far in establishing the South Asian University. The Committee observe that this idea for establishment of the University was mooted in 2005 but academic activities could commence only recently on 26<sup>th</sup> August, 2010 from a rented building with 50 students. The Committee feel that this Project has already got delayed inordinately and further delays would cause huge cost escalation. The Committee would, therefore, desire that establishment of South Asian University should be taken as a matter of national pride and all initiatives should be taken to complete the work in the shortest possible time to showcase India’s strength. Further, the Committee may be informed regularly about the progress of work and activities relating to establishment of South Asian University.**

**(Recommendation No. 24)**

35. The Committee had observed that during BE 2009-10, Rs. 50 crores were allocated for Nalanda University which was reduced in RE 2009-10 to Rs. 1.00 crore. The Committee was informed that allocation was sought on the assumption that the proposed Bill would be passed but it could not happen due to postponement of East Asian Summit (EAS). The Committee had expressed their hope that the proposed Bill would be tabled soon and all efforts would made to pass the Bill to put in place the proper legislative framework. The Committee were of the view that the project was very prestigious one and an important constituent in India’s engagement with the East. The Committee had, therefore, recommend that the project should not get delayed on account of any procedural reasons. The Committee had desired that once the proposal for setting up of University is finalized by Nalanda Mentor Group, there should be quick and time-bound implementation of the same in an efficient manner.

36. The Ministry of External Affairs in their action taken reply have stated as under:

“Nalanda University is an East Asian Summit (EAS) initiative. During BE 2009-10, Rs.50 crores were allocated for the Nalanda University, which was reduced in RE 2009-10 to Rs.1 crore. It is proposed to seek an allocation of Rs. 100 crores in BE 2011-12 now that all the legal formalities have been completed for the establishment of the University

The Nalanda University Act 2010 was passed in the Monsoon session of the Parliament (August-September 2010) and received President's assent on 21 September 2010. A Gazette Notification was issued on 19 November 2010 for bringing the Act into force and for the establishment of the Nalanda University w.e.f. 25 November 2010. Meanwhile, the Vice Chancellor-designate has assumed charge w.e.f. 8 October 2010 and has commenced operations from the Project Office in New Delhi.

The Government of Bihar has already agreed to transfer the land acquired for establishing the University once the University is established. The Vice Chancellor-designate has initiated the process with the Government of Bihar for transferring the land to the Nalanda University. A meeting of the Nalanda Mentor Group, which is now the Interim Governing Board of the University, is being held in February 2011 to discuss various administrative issues connected with the establishment of the University, including framing of Statutes, Financial Rules etc."

**37. The Committee are happy to note that Nalanda University Act, 2010 has come into force w.e.f. 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2010, the Vice Chancellor designate has assumed charge and has commenced operations from the project Office in New Delhi. The committee hope that all formalities and administrative issues connected with establishment of Nalanda University, including framing of statutes, financial rules etc. will be completed and resolved at the earliest. The Committee, however, desire that since the project has already been delayed a lot, all other steps should be taken to complete the project in a time-bound manner and they may be apprised of the developments regarding establishment of Nalanda University from time to time. The Committee would also like to reiterate that the new institution should evolve as a centre of excellence and tool of engagement within the region of East Asia matching the historical significance of its name 'Nalanda'.**



## **CHAPTER – II**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS/ OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT**

#### **Recommendation No.1**

The Committee note that in the actual expenditure pattern, maximum amount is spent during the last quarter of the financial year. The Ministry in its justification has stated that the Cash Accounts from all the Missions/Posts are not received at the time of preparation of monthly assessment, therefore the same are incorporated and accounted at the end of the financial year. The Committee are not satisfied with the justification given by the Ministry. The Committee are aware that the Integrated Mission Accounting System (I-MAS) is functional in more than fifty Missions/Posts abroad for accounting purposes. The Committee therefore, desire that remaining Missions/Posts should be connected with the software at the earliest, so as to make actual assessment of expenditure in terms of real time basis. The Committee also desire that MEA should regularly update its website particularly, the section related to MEA Accounts. Moreover, the Committee are amazed to know that a country which is helping in building up e-network in other countries has failed to connect all its Missions/Posts through the e-network. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Ministry should ensure establishment of e-network in all the Missions/Posts without delay.

#### **Reply of the Government**

Ministry has already undertaken a pro-active approach to ask all our Missions to implement the IMAS software for use by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010. This has sensitized the Missions towards speedy implementation of IMAS software. As of December 2010, 121 Missions/Posts have implemented IMAS. The implementation of this software in rest of the Missions/Posts has been delayed due to technical reasons. This is being actively pursued with the concerned Missions/Posts and also with the development team.

As for e-networking of our Missions abroad, it may be noted that e-networking is also in existence for some specific services, for example, Centralized Passport Printing System, on-line Passport Verification System, Mail Service, ITEC Programmes. Management Information System (MIS) also provides for real time updation of data in the budget module as well as the Administration module. Another aspect of e-networking will be added when the Ministry moves to the new building where provision for e-networking of our Missions through the voice over IP Protocol has already been incorporated for implementation.

It may be noted that communications over internet and e-networking depend heavily on public infrastructure available in the host country of our Missions abroad. This varies widely from place to place and ensuring security of such channels requires to be fool-proof for functioning. As and when applications, which may require use of dedicated secure networks, Ministry would be implementing the same.

As per the recommendation of the Hon'ble Standing Committee, XP Division has taken suitable action to spread familiarization visits equally over the year. A list of the visits that were arranged, and plans for the next three months in the current financial year, is enclosed.

On the expenditure front, the Division has already spent 61.8% of the sanctioned budget till date. Further expenditure will be incurred for the activities scheduled for the remaining period in the current financial year.

The MEA website is being updated on real-time basis. Ministry will coordinate with various Divisions for updating the website of required material that is helpful to the Missions.

**Tentative schedule of media delegations/ Events  
for XP Division for 2010 & till April 2011**

Month	Delegation/Event
<b>April</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hosted A delegation of women journalists from SAARC countries</li> </ul>
<b>May</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>18 – 25 April</b> Hosted media delegates from <b>ASEAN countries</b></li> </ul>
<b>June</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>20-23 June:</b> Hosted Mr. <b>Haroon Siddiqui</b>, Editor Emeritus, Toronto Star</li> <li>• <b>30 June- 7 July-</b> A delegation of Journalist Delegation from <b>Pakistan</b></li> </ul>
<b>July</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>19-24 July :</b> MEA Beat Media Course at FSI</li> </ul>
<b>August</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>14 - 20 August :</b> Hosted a delegation of <b>Journalists from Nepal</b></li> <li><b>21-27 August :</b> Hosted a delegation of <b>journalists from CIS countries</b></li> </ul>
<b>September</b>	<p><b>12-19 September:</b> Hosted a delegation of <b>Journalists from China</b></p> <p><b>25 Sep- 3 October:</b> A delegation of <b>Journalists from Japan and South Korea</b></p> <p><b>17 Sep – 2 October:</b> A tailored made Training programme was organized at IIMC for 26 journalists from Myanmar</p>
<b>October</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>3-10 October:</b> Hosted a delegation of journalists from Bangladesh</li> <li><b>10-18 October:</b> Hosted a delegation from the Anglophone African countries (<i>Egypt, Botswana, Ghana, Namibia, South Africa, Sudan, Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, Malawi, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Ghana</i> )</li> </ul>

<b>November</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>19-26 November:</b> Hosted Mr. Adrian Michael Editor in Chief of the Telegraph London</li> </ul>
<b>December</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> Dec: Interaction for European Chiefs of Bureaus based in New Delhi</li> <li>• 4-12 December: Hosted a delegation of journalists from Sri Lanka.</li> </ul>
<b>January 2011</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8-15 January: Visit of 14 Journalists from Eastern Europe (Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Czech, Slovakia, Romania, Slovenia and Croatia-<b>10/11 Jan- DS XPS</b>)</li> <li>• 12-20 January: Would be hosting 12-14 Economic/Financial Editors from BRIC/IBSA</li> <li>• 16-23 January/ : 11 Editors from Bhutan</li> <li>• <b>16-28 January:</b> 30 Afghan journalists training (IIMC)</li> <li>• <b>23-30 January: Delegation from Pakistan ( 24 and 27 Jan)</b></li> <li>• Hosting journalists from Taiwan</li> </ul>
<b>February 2011</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From Saudi Arabia</li> <li>• <b>12-17 February:</b> From Iran</li> <li>• From Pakistan</li> </ul>
<b>March 2011</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• West Asia ( Jordan, Syria, Israel, Palestine and Lebanon)</li> </ul>
<b>April</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• India Africa Summit in May in Ethiopia (<b>Anglophone African countries</b> (Group II: North &amp; Central African Countries-awaited)</li> </ul>

(File No. AA/PARL/125/77/10)

### Recommendation No.2

The Committee note that there has vast gap between the Proposed Outlays and the Actual Allocation in the Annual Plans over the years. The Approved Plan Outlay for the Ministry of External Affairs for 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan is Rs. 2488.41 crores. Moreover, at the mid-term review stage, the Ministry has sought an allocation worth Rs. 4522.24 crores and the allocation is still awaited. The Committee are of the view that the Ministry should make efforts for quicker allocation so that the pace of execution of the current projects and the projects in pipeline are not adversely affected. The Ministry has accepted the fact that the fund allocation by Planning Commission might have been based on the past utilization of budget by the Ministry. The Committee take very serious note of Ministry's casual approach in the matter and hold it responsible for continuous poor utilization of funds allocated to the Ministry. The Committee also note that inspite of reduced allocation, surrenders have taken place at the end of the year. Hence, the Committee would like to suggest that the Ministry should make more realistic assessment for Proposed Outlays in consonance with Ministry's capacity to spend.

## **Reply of the Government**

The Committee's suggestion is noted. The Ministry would take all necessary steps to ensure a realistic projection of its budgetary requirements and efficient utilization of the allocated funds so as to avoid any surrender at the close of the financial year.

**(File No. AA/PARL/125/77/10)**

## **Recommendation No.4**

The Ministry has informed that one of the reasons for under-utilization of funds during the past years was that Indian contractors often quoted for execution of projects abroad without taking into account all the factors particularly internal problems, political and security development in the beneficiary countries for the projects to be carried out under 'Technical and Economic Programme'. The Committee are not convinced with the justification furnished by the Ministry shifting the responsibility on contractors and are appalled to note that the Ministry is still in jeopardy inspite of the fact that Ministry is undertaking such projects for a long time. The Committee, therefore, are of the view that there is an urgent need to overhaul the tendering process for the projects. The Committee also desire that the Ministry should consider factors like prior experience in a particular region and prior performance of the agencies participating in tendering process, alongwith quoted price while granting contracts. The contractors whose projects have element of cost and time overrun repeatedly should be discouraged. The appraisal and third party audit of the project should also be conducted. The Committee are of the opinion that it is the responsibility of Government to sensitize contractors about security and political factors before awarding contracts and help them in adverse conditions arising in emergency. Keeping in view the past performance of the Ministry, the Committee recommend that the Ministry should review the project planning/ monitoring process with a view to ensure proper utilization of funds as also achieving the physical targets set for various projects.

## **Reply of the Government**

Ministry has adopted several procedures in tendering process for smooth execution of its projects. Ministry follows the GFR guidelines for tendering process particularly for the projects on infrastructure. While preparing tender documents, pre-qualification and technical conditions defining annual turnover of the firm during the last three years and its past experience in the respective field of the project being undertaken, are determined. These pre-conditions prevent the inexperienced firms to bid for the project. Before awarding the contract, the implementing agencies/contractors are also suitably sensitized about the political importance of projects and are advised to complete the projects in the given timeframe without any cost escalation. Those contractors which have in the past had time overrun with reference to the projects awarded to them, are invariably discouraged to bid. It may be mentioned that even if a contractor may be familiar with the political and security situation of a particular Country, where the project is to be executed, there are always unpredictable situations which can cause delay in the completion of the project. Notwithstanding the situations on the ground in individual countries, all efforts are being made to implement projects in

a time-bound manner to avoid time and cost over-runs, including by impressing on the contractors the special stakes involved in projects being undertaken abroad on behalf of the Ministry.

Performance of the implementing agency is monitored by a project-specific monitoring committee formed in the Ministry for implementation of the projects. Annual third-party audit of the Ministry is carried out by the office of Directorate of Audit, New Delhi.

**(File No. AA/PARL/125/77/10)**

### **Recommendation No. 5**

The Committee have noted that the Ministry has temporarily got engaged some outsourced staff to deal with the shortage of staff at the headquarters. The Committee are not in favour of such a move to outsource staff in a Ministry of such sensitive nature and suggest that the move for outsourcing of work of sensitive nature should be avoided. The Committee recommend that instead of outsourcing the staff, the Ministry should take steps to call staff on deputation basis from other Ministries and Departments for the time being. The Committee also recommend that Government should take all initiatives to persuade the Staff Selection Commission for filling up vacancies at the earliest.

### **Reply of the Government**

The Ministry is conscious of the sensitive nature of tasks assigned to it. Accordingly, the outsourced staff are not deployed in any sensitive Division. Also, the following norms are followed in deployment of the outsourced staff:

- (i) Character and antecedents (C&A) verification will be carried out in case of all outsourced staff.
- (ii) All outsourced staff will be required to give an oath that they will not violate security norms, nor carry any document outside their office and not reveal any information whatsoever.
- (iii) All the Heads of Offices, where outsourced staff are deployed, will have to give a certificate to the effect that these staff will not have access to classified and sensitive information.
- (iv) No outsourced staff will have the custody of any official document. This custody will remain with the regular employees of the Ministry. This will be ensured by not letting any office be fully manned by outsourced staff only.

The outsourcing of staff will be discontinued as soon as the existing shortages are met by the normal recruitment/promotion methods. Following the declaration of results of 2008 exams, the nominated candidates are joining the Ministry gradually. The process for selection of candidates based on 2010 exams, including vacancies for both 2009 and 2010, is underway. The indents for these exams have been placed by the Ministry with the Staff Selection Commission.

**(File No. AA/PARL/125/77/10)**

### **Recommendation No.6**

The Committee observe that the Government is facing acute shortage of Indian Foreign Service Officers. Though, Ministry has made efforts in this direction and 62 posts of IFS officers and 41 posts of IFS-B have been created under expansion plan, but due to likely difficulty in cadre management, incremental approach is being followed in filling the direct recruitment posts. However, the Committee is of the opinion that an in-house Organization and Management Study is required to be conducted on the current set up of the organization, allocation of work within Division and job profile of its existing officers. Furthermore, the Committee note with deep concern that the Indian Foreign Service is no longer the most preferred career choice for the high ranking meritorious candidates selected through the Civil Services Examination. The Committee, therefore, advise the Ministry to undertake a holistic study to look into the reasons behind such a shift in priority of the younger generation and take remedial measures to attract more and more young and talented persons for joining Indian Foreign Service. The Committee advise that Ministry should be its own brand ambassador and should project itself before the youth and students in a better and planned way while interacting with universities, academics and intellectuals through various seminars, conferences etc.

### **Reply of the Government**

The Ministry has already commenced the exercise of Cadre Review, which will pave the way for an extensive Work Measurement Study of the Ministry in order to make optimal use of the available resources.

As regards the Ministry functioning as its own brand Ambassador and projecting itself before the youth and students in a better and planned way, the Public Diplomacy Division of the Ministry has already started such activities which are detailed in the reply to Point No.9. Attention is drawn, in particular, to two facts:

- i) The 21 lectures already organised under the Distinguished Lecture Series at various university campuses. These provide direct interaction with students to encourage them to join the foreign service.
- ii) A Digital Diplomacy approach using Web 2.0 tools that consciously aims to connect with the younger generation.

**(File No. AA/PARL/125/77/10)**

### **Recommendation No.7**

The Committee understand that there is a change in the educational and socio-economic profile of the new entrants to the Indian Foreign Services. Simultaneously, the framework of international relations has also undergone tremendous change over the past few years with diverse and increased arenas of engagement. Due to these factors the freshers are under a lot of stress. The Committee would like to suggest that the Ministry should modify the training process in such a manner that it acts as a facilitator in reorienting the freshers

and to familiarize them with their current environment. More innovative and diversified training should be provided to empower them to face the new and growing challenges in conduct of India's Foreign Policy.

### **Reply of the Government**

The training programme of IFS Probationers has been revised and new modules on environmental and climate diplomacy, energy security and international trade relations have been introduced. In addition to the traditional foreign policy subjects, the young entrants to the Service are also briefed on the contemporary social development issues, minority rights and problems, right to information, human rights issues etc. During their District training, the Probationers are given the opportunity to learn about grass-root level administration and problems faced by rural communities. Group discussions and presentations on topical issues have also been introduced in order to develop effective communication skills and creative thinking among the Probationers.

**(File No. AA/PARL/125/77/10)**

### **Recommendation No.9**

The Committee take note of Ministry's endeavor to keep pace with the challenges and changes posed by the fast pace of developments in global politics and communication. The Committee appreciate the intellectual and academic content of its engagement with the target audiences. However, the Committee are of the view that Ministry should also arrange for translation and publication of books written in Indian languages which are of everlasting importance, in various languages in association with Indian Council for Cultural Relations, so as to directly engage with the general public. The Committee in particular note the initiatives of MEA 'Distinguished Lecture Series' on India's foreign policy at University level in India. The Committee desire that such lectures should be held in Universities across India as well as abroad, so as to enlighten the youth who are the future policy/opinion makers about the nuances of Indian foreign policy, to project MEA's working and make it as attractive career option for meritorious youth in India. At the same time, the Ministry will benefit by such interaction resulting in the flow of fresh ideas, approaches and insights in conduct of its international relations.

### **Reply of the Government**

The Public Diplomacy Division is grateful for the Committee's appreciation with regard to the intellectual and academic content of the engagement of the Division with the target audiences. As regards, the Committee's recommendation that the Division should arrange for translation and publication of books written in Indian languages of everlasting importance in various languages, it is submitted that the Division has supported the initiatives to publish the translations of 'The Autobiography of Mahatma Gandhi' in Slovenian language, the translation of the 'Glimpses of World History' by Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru in Bulgarian language and the translation of Tagore's works in Serbian language. In addition, the Division took the initiative to bring out a special issue of India Perspectives to coincide with the commemoration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore. To

bring out this issue, the Division established a close partnership with Viswa Bharati. The issue was available in 17 major languages.

2. As regards, the MEA's Distinguished Lecture Series, the Division has organized lectures at different central and State universities during the period January – November 2010 a list of which is given in the following paragraphs. As desired by the Committee, this programme is being expanded and lectures are being organized in the coming months in universities across India. The Division has taken note of the Committee's recommendation to organize such lectures abroad also.

3. With respect to the Committee's recommendation that the PD Division may make arrangements for the visit of foreign journalists, it is submitted that the mandate for such visits broadly lies with the XP Division of the Ministry. However, PD Division has an active programme for hosting influential visitors from foreign countries. The Division is expanding this programme and details of visits which have taken place between January – November 2010 and the proposals which are in the pipeline are given in the succeeding paragraphs.

4. Details of the specific outreach activities consisting of incoming and outgoing visits; seminars, conferences and bilateral dialogues, MEA Distinguished Lecture Series; outreach to universities/think tanks; commissioning of documentary films and purchase of audio-visual publicity material for distribution to missions abroad; publishing of the Ministry's flagship magazine 'India Perspectives'; and commissioning of coffee table books and purchase of books and magazines for distribution to missions abroad are given below:

#### **Outreach Activities – Workshops, Incoming & Outgoing Visits, Seminars, Conferences, etc.**

##### **January – November 2010**

- The second project workshop of the GCC – India Joint Study Group coordination by PD Division, Gulf Division, Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) and Gulf Research Centre, Dubai, a premier foreign affairs think-tank in the UAE was held in New Delhi from January 5 – 7, 2010.
- A Slide Presentation and Talk on "Being Indian, Being Israeli: Migration, Culture and Identity Among Indian Jews in Israel" by author Dr. Maina Chawla Singh was organized by the India International Centre with the support of the Public Diplomacy Division on January 15, 2010.
- Visit of a 26-member delegation by PIO journalists from 15 countries during the Prawasi Bharatiya Diwas (PBD) 2010.
- Visit of a 6-member delegation of Permanent Representatives of Small Pacific Island Developing States from 23-31 January 2010.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> MEA-IISS Dialogue was organized by the Division on Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2010 in London.



- PD Division, in association with the Government of Bihar, organized a Seminar on 'Towards a New Era in Nepal' in Patna from 25-27 February 2010.
- The Division collaborated with the United Services Institute (USI) to organize a screening of the documentary 'Negotiating Justice' on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2010.
- The Division's documentary 'A Tale of Two Writers – Ismat & Annie' was screened at India Habitat Centre on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2010.
- The Division, in partnership with the Kerala International Centre (KIC), Thiruvananthapuram and the National Maritime Foundation (NMF), Chennai, organized a highly successful conference in Kochi on March 21, 2010 on the theme "India's Maritime Links with the Gulf – Old Foundations, New Perspectives".
- The Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development (CRRID), Chandigarh and Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi with the support of the Division organized an international Conference on "Women Guiding the Destiny of South Asia: A Media Perspective by Women Journalists" from March 13 – 15, 2010.
- A National Seminar on Energy Security was organized by the School of International Relations & Strategic Studies (SIRSS), Jadavpur University in collaboration with the Jadavpur Association of International Relations (JAIR) on Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> March 2010.
- The University School of Open Learning, Department of Political Science, Panjab University, Chandigarh, with the financial assistance from the Division organized a National Seminar on "Indian Foreign Policy in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Challenges and Prospects on 25-26 March 2010.
- The Division in association with Jadavpur Association of International Relations (JAIR) and CII organized a 2-day seminar titled "From Land-locked to Land-linked: Northeast India in BIMSTEC" at Shillong from 8-10 April 2010.
- The Embassy of India, Jakarta, with the support of PD Division organized a series of outreach activities in Jakarta and Bali during 3-5 May 2010 in association with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, the ASEAN Secretariat and Udayana University, Bali.
- The 9<sup>th</sup> annual India-Korea Dialogue was organized by ICRIER with the support of PD Division in Seoul on May 24-25, 2010.
- A Symposium on India's foreign policy with special reference to Northeast & East India and India's Look East Policy was organised by Indian Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta at IIT campus, Guwahati on 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2010 with support of PD Division.

- A 7-member NETPAC delegation of eminent writers on cinema from Asian countries visited India from 18-27 August to attend the international conference of NETPAC and visit to Hyderabad and Mumbai supported by Public Diplomacy Division.
- Familiarisation visit of a Multi-Party Parliamentary Delegation to India from the Cambodian National Assembly between 22-28 August, 2010 supported by Public Diplomacy Division, Ministry of External Affairs
- TARAGram YATRA 2010 – an international conference “Towards Green Economies” – scalable solutions for people and our planet” – 17 – 21 September 2010 – supported by Public Diplomacy Division, Ministry of External Affairs
- Visit of Dr. Eberhard Sandschneider, Otto-Wolff-Director of the Research Institute of the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP) at the invitation of Public Diplomacy Division, Ministry of External Affairs from September 11 – 16, 2010
- Visit of a 7-member UK Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Parliamentary delegation consisting of six Members of Parliament (three each from the House of Lords and the House of Commons) from 26<sup>th</sup> September to 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2010 at the invitation of Public Diplomacy Division, Ministry of External Affairs.
- Financial support to Missions abroad to celebrate International Day of Non Violence ( 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2010).
- A Seminar on 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of arrival of Indian indentured labour in South Africa from October 4 – 6, 2010;
- The Indo-Gulf Partnership Project – GCC-India Study Group’s meeting at Riyadh on 16-17 October 2010;
- Release of the book In the National Interest: A Strategic Foreign Policy for India authored by Rajiv Kumar and Santosh Kumar by Hon'ble Vice President of India Shri M. Hamid Ansari on 3rd November 2010 at Nehru Memorial Museum & Library, Teen Murti Bhawan
- Financial support to invite leading writers and intellectuals to the Hay Festival in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala from November 13 – 14, 2010;
- Visit of a 4-member Lithuanian Parliamentary delegation – 13 – 18 November 2010
- Visit of Shri Tarun Das to speak at a Business Seminar in Buenos Aires on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2010 supported by Public Diplomacy Division, Ministry of External Affairs

- Support to South Asia Women's Media Summit from November 21-23, 2010 by International Centre, Goa at Goa;
- Visit of Multi-party delegation of young parliamentarians from Nepal organised by PD Division from November 21-28, 2010.
- Visit of the Australian Parliamentary delegation to India – 27 Nov – 5 Dec 2010 at the invitation of Public Diplomacy Division, Ministry of External Affairs

### **Proposals in the pipeline for FY 2010-2011**

- Conference on Inclusive Growth in association with the Confederation of Indian Industry, UK on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2010 at London and 30<sup>th</sup> November at Birmingham..
- International Public Diplomacy Conference being organized by the Centre for Media Studies in association with the Public Diplomacy Division from 10 – 11 December 2010.
- United States Visitors to India Programme (USVIP) under the US Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Programme - December 12 – 19, 2010
- Financial support to the Centre for African Studies, University of Mumbai, for an international conference titled “India, Africa and Food Security: Between the Summits”, in January 2011
- India as a Soft Power Symposium – London – February 18, 2011
- India Week in Mexico – March 2011
- Seminar on UNSC reforms being organised by PD Division in March 2011
- Commemoration of the 150th birth anniversary of W.M. Haffkine - a joint India-Israel event in Jerusalem with support from the Public Diplomacy Division, Ministry of External Affairs
- Financial support to the activities of Association of Asia Scholars for conducting seminars/workshops, etc;
- A number of outreach activities with Nepal;
- A visit of Future Parliamentary Leaders Group from Africa;
- Financial assistance for the establishment of Nalanda University;
- Seminar in Paris in partnership with French Institute of International Relations;

## Outreach Activities – Distinguished Lecture Series

### January – November 2010

The MEA Distinguished Lecture Series on India's Foreign Policy was launched at the Banaras Hindu University on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2010. These lectures have had very encouraging responses from various universities. These were:

#### Lectures delivered

<u>Sl.No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>University</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Subject</u>
1.	17/2/2010	Benaras Hindu University	Amb.Shri A.N.Ram	India's Emergence as a Global Power: Constraints and Prospects
2.	20/03/2010	University of Lucknow	Amb.R.Sen	Indo-US Relations and Regional Issues
3.	29/03/2010	University of Goa	Amb.Shri Lalit Mansingh	India's Foreign Policy in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century
4.	23/04/2010	Central University of Hyderabad	Amb.Shri K.V.Rajan	South Asian Developments and Implications for the Asian Century
5.	01/05/2010	University of Sikkim	Amb.Shri Rajiv Sikri	India's Look East Policy
6.	13/05/2010	University of Manipur	Amb.Shri Rajiv Bhatia	Addressing Africa's Development Challenges through Partnership with India
7.	16/7/2010	I.I.T. Mumbai	Amb. Shri R.M. Abhyankar	India and West Asia
8.	23/8/2010	University of Bangalore	Amb. Shri C. Dasgupta	India's Climate Change Diplomacy
9.	25/8/2010	University of Tripura	Amb. Shri S.T. Devare	India's Look East Policy
10.	27/8/2010	Tezpur University	Amb. Shri S.T. Devare	India's Look East Policy

11.	30/8/2010	North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong	Amb. Shri S.T. Devare	India's Look East Policy
12.	30/8/2010	Indian Council for Social Science and Research	Amb. Shri S.T. Devare	India's Look East Policy
13.	6/9/2010	Ranchi University	Amb. Shri H.H.S. Viswanathan	The Prospects & Challenges for a Resurgent Africa
14.	7/9/2010	Central University of Jharkhand	Amb. Shri H.H.S. Viswanathan	India's Engagement with a Resurgent Africa
15.	13/9/2010	Jadavpur University	Amb. Shri R. Sen	Making American Interest Groups Appreciate India's Concerns And Priorities: A Public Diplomacy Exercise Abroad
16.	14/9/2010	Calcutta University	Amb. Shri R. Sen	The Evolution Of India-Russia Relations
17.	28/9/2010	Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkey	Amb. Shri B. Balakrishnan	Role of Technology in India's Foreign Relations
18.	5/10/2010	University of Rajasthan, Jaipur	Amb. Shri Kishan S. Rana	"Indian Foreign Policy: The Citizen Dimension".
19.	22/10/2010	Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar	Amb. Shri K. Sibal	Indo – Pak Relations

20.	24/10/2010	Jawaharlal Nehru University	Amb. Shri Swashpawan Singh	Role and functioning of UN organisations
21.	26/10/2010	Panjab University, Chandigarh	Amb. Shri G. Parthasarathy	India – Pakistan Relations

The Division is organizing lectures in the coming months at various other universities across India.

### **Audio-Visual Publicity**

The Division completed the following documentary films projecting diverse facets of India:- (i) Animare; (ii) Bonding with Africa; (iii) Martial Traditions; (iv) Urdu & Modern India; (v) A Perfect Blend; (vi) Humsaye – Two Nations, Two Neighbours; (vii) India by Choice; (viii) Love Song of the World; (ix) In the Season of Blue Storm; (x) God’s Chosen One; (xi) Resurgent Manas; (xii) Footsteps into Future; (xiii) India Empowered; (xiv) On the Wings of Courage; (xv) The Path Breakers; (xvi) Vibrant Colours; (xvii) A People’s Project – Film on IBSA; (xviii) Emerging Ties and (xix) A La Cart!. Several of these films have been prepared in multiple formats so that not only can they be screened on various TV channels but shorter versions can also be made available through You Tube and other new media channels. 20 films have already been uploaded onto You Tube.

In addition the division has commissioned 20 documentaries in the current year on a wide variety of subjects ranging from Literature, Indian weddings, Jaipur foot, MNREGA, e-governance initiatives, Saree, Blind Cricket and Indian Architecture. In addition we have also commissioned three documentaries in association with other ministries/ agencies ie. on Kishori Amonkar by Shri Amol Palekar with National Culture Fund, a 10-part series on the Indian Diaspora by Shri Siddharth Kak with MOIA and a film on Golden Temple with Discovery Channel. The division has also made a conscious effort to shift to High Definition format to make the documentaries compatible with the prevailing transmission format in other countries.

90 documentaries produced by the division are also being screened on DD-India from October 2010.

To ensure wider availability of our documentaries, we have entered into non-exclusive distribution arrangements against payment of royalty to the Government with M/s Saregama and Magic Lantern Foundation, an NGO.

### **Print Publicity**

The Division has completed two publications – a coffee table book titled ‘India for a Billion Reasons’ and a book by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) titled ‘Simplifying Climate Change’. Four new coffee table books on different facets of India have been commissioned and gift sets of regional language books in Gujarati, Punjabi, Tamil and Telugu are being finalized so that our missions can use these for our outreach efforts to the Indian diaspora.

ICCR welcomes Committee’s suggestions that Ministry should “arrange translation and publication of books written in Indian languages which are of everlasting importance, in various languages in association with ICCR”. ICCR

has translated and published in recent past several books on Sufism, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad etc. (from English into Arabic and French as well from Urdu into Hindi). At present, ICCR is engaged in a project to translate Indian literature books such as Ramayana, Mahabharat and other texts into Arabic with help from Abu Dhabi Authority for Cultural and Heritage (ADACH) in collaboration with Embassy of India, Abu Dhabi. ICCR would be willing to undertake such work of translation and publication of books written in Indian languages in various languages with additional resources extended to ICCR. ICCR will also be able to work in consultation with other relevant organizations.

### **Digital Diplomacy**

PD Division has embarked on an active digital diplomacy approach aimed at harnessing the potential offered by Web 2.0 tools with three clear objectives:

- To connect with the internet savvy younger generation.
- To utilise the powerful, low cost, communication channels offered by Twitter, YouTube, Facebook, Blogspot, etc.
- To use these channels for receiving feedback and for creating interactive platforms that improve our interface with citizens.

During the period July-November 2010, PD Division has established a presence on each of these channels and also started a website ([www.Indiadiplomacy.in](http://www.Indiadiplomacy.in)) which is based on Web 2.0 platform. The response from the public has been extremely positive and the Twitter account for instance, already has close to 4,000 followers. We have put short versions of our documentaries on YouTube and have created an interactive space on Facebook to convey and share information about activities of our diplomatic missions. These initiatives have recently won recognition through the India e-gov 2.0 Awards 2010 where the Public Diplomacy Division received the award for most innovative use of social media in Government.

### **Promoting Brand India**

PD Division has taken several initiatives to promote the building of Brand India overseas. A few of the major initiatives in this regard include :

- i) Support to the **India Future of Change** campaign that attempts to create awareness of India in 18 major university campuses around the world through a series of design, business plan, photography, essay writing and other competitions.
- ii) Partnership with CII to mount a major branding campaign during the World Economic Forum's forthcoming Summit in Davos in January 2011. The campaign is themed '*India.Inclusive@Davos*'.
- iii) The PD website makes a conscious effort to create and amplify examples of India's Development Partnerships around the globe under the ITEC and other aid programmes.

- iv) A similar effort is also being made to project and highlight the global reach and impact of India's softpower.
- v) Active discussions are underway with Doordarshan to expand its global footprint and make it an effective vehicle for our public diplomacy efforts.

### **Creating an International Relations Community**

On a separate note, PD Division has embarked on an exercise to establish a nationwide database of all international relations scholars and experts. This has been done in partnership with the School of International Studies, JNU and with the Jadhavpur Association of international Relations. As a starting point, a closed google mail group has been created so that these scholars can start interacting with each other and establish relationship with the PD Division.

### **Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)**

ICCR welcomes Committee's suggestions that Ministry should "arrange translation and publication of books written in Indian languages which are of everlasting importance, in various languages in association with ICCR". ICCR has translated and published in recent past several books on Sufism, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad etc. (from English into Arabic and French as well from Urdu into Hindi). At present, ICCR is engaged in a project to translate Indian literature books such as Ramayana, Mahabharat and other texts into Arabic with help from Abu Dhabi Authority for Cultural and Heritage (ADACH) in collaboration with Embassy of India, Abu Dhabi. ICCR would be willing to undertake such work of translation and publication of books written in Indian languages in various languages with additional resources extended to ICCR. ICCR will also be able to work in consultation with other relevant organizations.

**(File No. AA/PARL/125/77/10)**

### **Recommendation No.10**

The Committee observe that Public Diplomacy Division of the Ministry makes arrangement for the visit of foreign journalists/delegations to India to expose them to various facts and view points in India and also to assist in capacity building in developing countries. The Committee take note of Ministry's efforts to engage with global audience and create positive image for India. However, the Committee is of the opinion that the focus of the Division should be expanded to include various walks of life to broaden its ambit and enhance its engagement with these countries and build upon the institutional initiatives undertaken by Government of India to intensify the constructive and positive engagement with the countries of these regions.

### **Reply of the Government**

The observations of the Public Diplomacy Division are same as indicated in point No.9.

**(File No. AA/PARL/125/77/10)**



### **Recommendation No.11**

The Committee take note of Ministry's effort to provide Aid and Loan to neighbouring countries and developing countries under various heads. Apart from building very few mega-projects in neighbouring countries, the Ministry is engaged in Small Development Projects (SDPs) in these countries. However, for all other countries the main focus of Ministry is to provide technical aid which is mainly focused on IT sector and capacity building of the personnel under International Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme. (ITEC Programme) The Committee are of the opinion that Ministry should evaluate the entire gamut of projects under 'Aid and Loans' and come out with the comprehensive review and a realistic, targeted blueprint with clearly stated aims and objectives encompassing developing countries of African and Latin American and Caribbean Countries as well as neighbouring countries.

The Committee are of the view that the Ministry should also focus on investment in projects for creating permanent assets particularly in the area of infrastructure. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Ministry should identify such projects that increase India's presence on a long term basis and citizens of a friendly country may feel India's presence as a friend in need. While making the investments, the attitude and affection of the people of that particular country should also be considered. The Committee also desire that alongwith the public sector, the Government of India should encourage, facilitate and channelize the energy of Indian private sector to increase India's presence in the African and Latin American regions. The Committee would like to reiterate that India should pay more attention towards these countries, in view of various competing influences operating in the region.

### **Reply of the Government**

Developing Countries, including those in Caribbean, Latin America and Africa are being paid due attention by the Ministry as far as grant of assistance to these countries is concerned. The main focus is to set up IT Training Centres under Development Partnership. In the last few years, IT Training Centres have been set up in Cuba, El-Salvador, Honduras, Jamaica and Nicaragua. Establishment of new IT Training Centres is under implementation in Syria and Grenada. Proposals for setting up similar IT Training Centres in Vietnam, Ecuador and Dominican Republic are under active consideration of the Ministry.

Infrastructure projects have not been neglected. Apart from the projects mentioned above, a Vocational Training Centre for construction sector is being set up in Aceh, Indonesia. The Government of Montenegro has approached us for conducting a feasibility study on setting up of a communication network centre in Podgorica (Montenegro) which will link that Country's Missions with its Headquarter. Development of two wind farms in Syria is also being considered. In Maldives, an 8-storey India-Maldives Friendship Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism Studies Centre is being constructed.

Ministry has given due consideration to the role of the private sector also. IT Centre projects in Cuba, El-Salvador, Honduras, Jamaica and Nicaragua were all awarded to the private sector, as was the civil, plumbing, fire-fighting and electrical works part of the project in Maldives.

Besides the above, Ministry has undertaken restoration works of the Ta Prohm Temple complex in Cambodia and Wat Phou Temple complex in Laos through the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to help preserve the cultural heritage of these two nations.

## **Africa**

In Africa, the Indo-Zimbabwe Project for Development of Small and Medium Enterprises Sector is under completion. In Tanzania, feasibility study for mining coal for production of sponge iron and steel through Ministry of Coal is under consideration of the Ministry. Proposals for setting up of IT Centres in Burundi, Uganda, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Congo, and Liberia are also under Ministry's consideration.

This Ministry has been assisting various countries of Africa for development through a mix of loan and grant. Major infrastructure projects on the request of host countries have been undertaken through Line of Credit (LOC) route whereas smaller projects are considered under GOI grant as well. Year 2008 had been a landmark year in India Africa relations as after the India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) of April, 2008, the priorities of African continent were identified and the programme was chalked out for meeting those priorities. During the IAFS, our PM announced US\$ 5 billion credit to various African countries over a period of 5 years and grant amounting to US\$ 500 million for implementation of various projects. In the Plan of Action, various programmes for capacity building in Africa through regular academic courses and training courses under agriculture, doubling of ICCR scholarships, enhancement of ITEC scholarships, etc. were offered to African countries.

A commitment has also been made to set up the following institutions in Africa:-

- vi. India-Africa Institute of Information Technology;
- vii. India-Africa Diamond Institute;
- viii. India-Africa Institute of Planning and Administration;
- ix. 10 Vocational Training Centres in Africa and;
- x. Human Settlement Centres.

Discussions are continuing with the AU for identification of locations of the above institutes/centres.

The above list is only indicative and to get a complete picture, a copy of the Plan of Action of the Framework for Cooperation of the IAFS launched with the African Union (AU) Delegation in March 2010 is enclosed.

In addition, the Africa Divisions in the MEA are implementing projects under grant bilaterally as well.

The decision of the IAFS focus on some of the ideas by elaborating capacity building programmes and working on creation of regional institutions. Extensive consultations with the African countries, Regional Communities and African Union are held so that the requirement of African countries is fully met.

Periodic review is conducted of our policy and programmes in order to safeguard India's interests in Africa. The energy of the private sector is also channelised to increase India's presence in Africa. To achieve this end, we have supported the CII-Exim Bank Conclave for 6 years in which India's private sector and public sector meet and match their objectives with their African counterparts.

So far, Lines of Credit(LOCs) worth US\$1446.20 million have been extended to the 25 countries in West Africa. These have been done on a bilateral basis as also through regional organizations/initiatives. LOCs have been mostly for infrastructure projects. Our focus is for supply of projects which will have a lasting impression of India's contribution to the respective country's economic and social development, e.g., we have recently announced LOCs for two hydro power projects in DR Congo which will benefit a vast number of people.

During the year 2010-11, so far, the following LOC's have been approved for the countries of East & Southern Africa:

S.N.	Country	Amount in US \$ mn	Purpose
1	Ethiopia	213.31	Development of sugar industry
2	Kenya	61.60	Power transmission lines
3	Malawi	50.00	Cotton processing facilities, green belt initiative, one village one product project
4	Mauritius	48.50	For purchase of Off shore Patrol Vessel
5	Mozambique	25.00	Rural electrification project
6	Mozambique	20.00	Enhancing productivity of rice-wheat-maize cultivation (US\$ 20 million)

Revised set of guidelines for disposal of LOC applications have been approved by External Affairs Minister and is now awaiting the concurrence of the Ministry of Finance.

The projects undertaken by the East and Southern Africa Division are invariably undertaken on the request of the host countries. Recommendations of our Heads of Missions are taken into consideration before submitting any proposal for approval. The following important projects

have been completed/ are under process in the countries of East & Southern Africa under GOI grant:

1. Setting up of India-Tanzania Centre of Information Technology, in Dar-es-Salaam (Already implemented)
2. Setting up of Centre of Excellence in Information Technology in Lesotho (In advance stages of implementation)
3. Setting up of India-Seychelles Centre of Excellence in Information Technology (In advance stages of implementation)

These Centres have been set up at the request of the host Governments and apart from providing support for networking in medical/educational fields would also impart training to the citizens of respective countries in the field of Information Technology. The Centres would no doubt meet the expectations of the Committee as citizens of Tanzania, Lesotho and Seychelles would feel India's presence as a friend in need.

Under the Pan-African e-Network Project, Government of India is helping in setting up a fibre-optic network to provide satellite connectivity, tele-medicine and tele-education in African countries. M/s. Telecommunication Consultants India Limited, a Government of India undertaking, is implementing the project on behalf of Government of India. Project aims to create significant linkages for tele-education and tele-medicine, internet, video-conferencing and VoIP services making available the facilities and expertise of some of the best universities and super-specialty hospitals in India to the people of Africa. 47 of the 53 African countries have signed the agreement with TCIL for implementation of this project, which has already been implemented in 39 countries and implementation is likely to be completed in the remaining countries shortly.

The Government has been encouraging participation of private sector in investment related projects. With this view in mind, regional conclaves/workshops have been organized not only in India but also in several African capitals to attract investment by private sector organisations. Recent examples are acquisition of telecommunication services by Bharti Mittal Group, joint venture projects by TATAs/Mahindra & Mahindra in Nigeria, Angola etc.

### **Eurasia**

Under our programme, **Aid to Eurasian Countries**, a number of projects in varying sectors of the economy have been funded or are being funded in some of the countries in the region. These include some mega projects like renovation of Varzob-I project in Tajikistan at a cost of Rs. 74.20 crores, setting up of a Potato Processing Plant in Talas region of the Kyrgyzstan (cost Rs. 10.80 crores) and some smaller projects like setting up of Entrepreneurship Centre in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan in addition to various I.T. Centres in Armenia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and

Turkmenistan. Such unique capacity building and training projects in the entrepreneurship development sector and particularly in the I.T. field, help establish a strong Indian brand of excellence in these areas. This will promote goodwill for India and also create conditions for promoting IT – related exports in the future. These projects are identified taking into consideration the requirements and aspirations of the people of the recipient countries and India’s expertise and reputation in that field. Some of these projects funded with our financial support have become self-sustained and showcase India’s developmental experience in the particular field. Our budget for the year 2010-11 has been increased to Rs. 40 crores in keeping with India’s strategy to increase our presence in Eurasian countries in our extended neighbourhood.

Possibility of setting up certain new projects in the region like Eurasia e-Centre and establishment of a hospital with Indian financial and technical assistance are being explored. These are likely to further boost India’s image in the Eurasia region.

### **Latin America and Caribbean**

India desires to build a multi-faceted relationship with Latin America & Caribbean region which is increasingly assuming strategic importance for India. India has a Strategic Partnership with Brazil, a Privileged Partnership with Mexico and with Argentina we are working towards a Strategic Partnership. India wishes to nurture historical and cultural ties with the Caribbean region that has substantial presence of Indian Diaspora. Our engagement with the region in general has increased manifold both bilaterally and multilaterally in recent times. There have been several exchanges of visits at the Head of Government/State, Ministerial, official and people to people contacts. This year Prime Minister visited Brazil for the Bilateral, IBSA and BRIC Summits on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2010. Earlier former MOS Dr. Shashi Tharoor visited Colombia, Peru, Dominican Republic and Haiti in January 2010. MOS Ms Praneet Kaur visited Brazil and Argentina in May 2010.

India’s trade with the region in 2009 was over US\$ 16 billion and our investments so far in the region are over US\$ 11 billion mostly in hydrocarbons. The potential is vast and we will continue to pursue our strategic interests in the region pertaining to energy security, food security, source minerals for our growing industry and facilitate market access for our exports. As part of our commitment to South-South Cooperation, we will continue to assist countries in the region in their capacity building initiatives. Trade promotion activities and business conclaves will be supported to bring greater awareness about the potential that exists between India and Latin America & Caribbean.

Our IT centres set up in Cuba, El Salvador, Honduras, Jamaica and Nicaragua are all working satisfactorily. These IT centres are very well appreciated in the countries that have been set up especially since they are assisting countries in their capacity building initiatives and creation of employment. On the request of the Governments of Nicaragua, Honduras

and El Salvador we have extended to run the centres for one more year. The proposal for an IT centre in Grenada is in an advance stage of consideration. Similar proposals for Ecuador, Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Paraguay are being processed. The proposal of Costa Rica is awaiting internal clearances of its Government. Through our Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) we impart specialized training in varied sectors at our premier Institutions of India. We also send our experts to these countries under this programme. For LAC countries we provide over 500 ITEC slots every year. The Government Lines of Credit (LoC) extended to LAC countries are primarily meant for infrastructure creation. In the last quarter, proposals received from Cuba, Belize and Nicaragua are being examined.

In order to sustain our long term strategic interests in the region we will consider opening of new missions on a case by case basis. We have opened a new mission in Guatemala in December, 2009.

### **Nepal**

Our economic cooperation with Nepal under “Aid to Nepal” is broad based with specific focus at the grass-root level. A number of projects have been implemented in the areas of infrastructure, health, water resources, rural and community development and education. The economic assistance extended to the GoN during 2008-09 under ‘Aid-to-Nepal’ budget was over Rs. 120 crores; and in FY 2009-2010, Rs. 161 crores.

The Small Development Projects (SDPs) programme, which covers projects with an outlay of less than NRs 5 crore (approx IRs. 3.125 crores), focuses on the critical sectors of health, education and community development has been implemented in Nepal under an MoU signed with the Government of Nepal in 2003. So far, over 150 projects have been completed and over 200 are under various stages of implementation in all 75 districts of Nepal. The SDP MoU has been further extended for a period of three years in July 2008. There are a number of medium to large projects under various stages of implementation in Nepal.

We have been working towards development and upgradation of border infrastructure including (i) Integrated Check Posts (ICPs), (ii) Road and (iii) Rail Linkages along the India-Nepal border. The development of the border infrastructure will increase connectivity with the Terai region and will further strengthen the economic linkages and people-to-people contacts between the two countries.

### **Bhutan**

As recommended by the Committee, in Bhutan, Ministry have focused on investment in projects for creating permanent assets, particularly in the area of infrastructure, and on projects that increase India’s presence on a long-term basis.

India is Bhutan's largest development partner and the principal donor for its economic development. GOI assistance encompasses a wide range of sectors of infrastructural development such as hydropower, transport, health, civil aviation, education, industry, information technology and communications.

- GOI has assisted in the establishment of the Paro airport.
- GOI is providing assistance for the establishment of a one million tonne capacity cement plant (Dungsum Cement Plant or DCP) in Bhutan, which will provide local employment and exploit Bhutan's only viable mineral resource in the area, limestone. India is also assisting Bhutan in the establishment of required infrastructure for the smooth functioning of DCP, such as roads, transmission line for the power supply for the plant, electric sub-station and railway siding.
- Border Roads Organisation's Project DANTAK has been undertaking works exclusively in Bhutan and has implemented several prestigious infrastructural projects such as development of highways and roads, telecommunication networks, airfields, helipads, housing complexes, hydel sub-stations etc. Till date, DANTAK has completed 1615 kms of black-topped roads, 115 kms of tracks and 4830 mts. of bridges in Bhutan. Other projects include four major highways, that is, Phuentsholing-Thimpu (179 kms), Gelephu-Trongsa (248 kms), Darranga-Trashigang (180 kms), and Simtokha-Trongsa-Trashigang (548 kms); Paro and Yangphula airfields, Bhutan Broadcasting Station, India House complex, Chukha hydel project housing complex, SAARC Convention Centre (*now used as offices of Bhutan's Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, enhancing the visibility of India's assistance*), Sherubtse College, Bank of Bhutan building and a hospital in Depthang.
- Development of water resources, particularly hydroelectric power projects (HEPs) has been an important, mutually beneficial and highly successful element in India's assistance programme for Bhutan. Three major HEPs have been built with GOI assistance in Bhutan: 336 MW Chukha HEP, 60 MW Kurichhu HEP and 1020 Tala HEP. India has committed to develop 10,000 MW of hydropower in Bhutan for export to India by 2020. Ten new HEPs have been identified for development to achieve this target. Of these, work on three has started – 720 MW Mangdechhu HEP, 1200 MW Punatsangchhu-I HEP and 1000 MW Punatsangchhu-II HEP. Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for the remaining projects are being prepared.
- India is assisting in the establishment of a Medical College in Thimpu, for which a Joint Project Implementation Authority has been set up. Some other major projects under Indian assistance include Electricity Distribution System for Thimpu and Paro, Indo-Bhutan Microwave Link and 'Total Solutions Project', an IT and e-governance project that aims to make half of Bhutan's population computer literate.

Under the SDP programme in Bhutan, the Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB) has identified projects that are crucial to socio-economic development including drinking water schemes, irrigation channels, farm roads, etc. So far, 1259 projects have been identified in two phases, for which 90% funds have been released for the 440 projects in phase one. Being at the grassroot level, these projects impart high visibility to India and help build goodwill amongst the people of Bhutan towards India.

### **Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Maldives**

The bilateral aid projects in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Maldives are identified mutually by India and the concerned countries keeping in view the needs of the people and in synchronization with the development of the countries where they are implemented. Projects are chosen with a view to enhance India's profile, strengthen relations and create goodwill. As a close and friendly neighbour, India has also been providing humanitarian aid and assistance to Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Maldives on times of natural disasters and calamities.

India is undertaking projects in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Maldives. Many of these are focused on creating permanent assets, particularly in the area of infrastructure. These projects would increase India's presence on a long term basis and enhance our affinity with the citizens of that country. Where possible, we are also involving private sector through the tendering process.

Several projects in all four countries have been completed and are at various stages of planning and implementation. In this context, following are the major projects:

#### **Bangladesh:**

- iii. Construction of Kala Bhaban Project for the Department of Theatre and Music Faculty at the University of Dhaka;
- iv. Construction of core shelters in 11 cyclone affected villages in Bangladesh

In Bangladesh, projects like Kala Bhaban and construction of core shelters will create assets on the ground.

#### **Sri Lanka:**

- vii. Rehabilitation of Kankesanthurai Port in Northern Sri Lanka;
- viii. Restoration of railway lines in Northern Sri Lanka;
- ix. Construction of Cultural Centre and restoration of stadium in Jaffna;
- x. Assistance in the construction of houses for the Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in Northern Sri Lanka;
- xi. Construction of Vocational Training Centres in Northern, Eastern and Central Provinces of Sri Lanka;
- xii. Various other projects in the areas of cultural cooperation, infrastructure in health and education.



During the visit of EAM between November 25-28, 2010, EAM participated in the ground breaking ceremony for the railway project in Northern Sri Lanka being taken up under an Indian line of credit as well as the ground breaking ceremony for construction of a pilot project of 1000 houses for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) of Northern Sri Lanka. Work on the Kankesanthurai Port is also going on schedule. Other projects including the restoration of a stadium in Jaffna, vocational training centres, etc. are at various stages of planning and processing. EAM also handed over tractors and agricultural implements to revive the livelihood of the IDPs. While deciding on the projects, the sentiments of the people is kept in mind, as well as consultations undertaken with various stakeholders.

### **Myanmar:**

- (i) Kaladan Multi-model Transit Transport Project for connectivity to the North-East;
- (ii) Rhi-Tiddim Road;
- (iii) Tamu-Kalewa-Kalmeyo (TKK Road); and
- (iv) Various other projects for railways, transmission lines and capacity building

The work on the Kaladan Multi-Model Transit Transport Project is proceeding on schedule and lines of credit have been extended to Myanmar of US\$ 60 millions for railway equipment and US\$ 64 millions for transmission lines.

### **Maldives:**

- i. Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism Studies, Male (Hotel Management Training Institute).

The various projects in Maldives are also being monitored at various stages of approval.

### **Mongolia**

Two highly visible projects on capacity building and human resource development in Mongolia have been set up with our assistance. These are

(i) **Rajiv Gandhi Vocational Training Centre (RGVTC)** : The Centre was inaugurated by Vice-President K.R.Narayanan in September 1996. It has training facilities eight different fields such as Auto Mechanic, electrician, Gem Stone Cutting/polishing, etc. The Centre is now called Rajiv Gandhi Art and Production School (RGAPS).

(ii) **Atal Bihari Vajpayee Centre for Excellence In Information & Communication Technology [ABVCE]** : The Atal Bihari Vajpayee Centre for Excellence in Information & Communication Technology was set up in October 2002 with a grant of US dollar one Million by Government of India. The ABVCE has facilities such as Videoconferencing, Data Networking Lab, Software Lab, Lecture Hall etc. The Video Conferencing facility at the Centre is now connected to 18 Aimag (provincial) capitals.

In Mongolia, the Government has decided to send two experts from National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) to Ulaanbaatar to inspect the existing facilities at the Rajiv Gandhi Art and Production School (RGAPS) and recommend upgrading of existing facilities and introduction of new facilities, if required, after consultations with Director of RGAPS. The above work is being undertaken by the Technical Cooperation Division of this Ministry.

## **Afghanistan**

India's assistance programme in Afghanistan, being implemented in close coordination with the Afghan government, has been in key areas of infrastructure generation and rehabilitation, health, human resource development, education etc and is virtually spread over the whole of Afghanistan. India's assistance programme places particular emphasis on capacity building and human resource development. Despite daunting logistical and security challenges, two major GOI-funded infrastructure projects have been completed— construction of 218 km road from Zaranj to Delaram in Nimroz province in Southern Afghanistan and the construction of 220 KV Transmission Line from Pul-e-Khumri to Kabul (202 km) together with a 220/110/20 kV sub-station in Chimtala. Construction of Afghanistan's new Parliament Building, a symbol of the common commitment of both countries to pluralism and democracy, commenced recently and is scheduled for completion within 36 months. Another ongoing infrastructure project being built with GOI assistance involves the construction of Salma Dam in Herat Province. India's assistance programme in Afghanistan has been substantially enhanced from 2009-10 by a 35% increase in scholarships for students and others coming to India, underlining our commitment to assisting Afghanistan in capacity building and human resource development. We also have a number of Small Development Projects under implementation – quick gestation projects that have a direct and visible impact on local communities.

India's assistance programme in Afghanistan has earned it tremendous goodwill among the ordinary people there, cutting across the ethnic and geographic divides. This has been borne out most recently by opinion surveys conducted by reputed international organizations such as Gallup and BBC/ABC/ARD which found that India topped the list of countries viewed favourably by the Afghan people, and that too by a large margin, far ahead of US, Germany, Iran, Britain, Pakistan and other countries or organizations.

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# **PLAN OF ACTION OF THE FRAMEWORK FOR COOPERATION OF THE INDIA-AFRICA FORUM SUMMIT**

## **Introduction**

In order to deepen the India-Africa strategic partnership to promote sustainable development, and to implement the outcomes of the First India-Africa Forum Summit, the two sides have jointly developed this Plan of Action, with a view to implementing the thematic areas that are contained in the Framework for Cooperation. The Plan of Action is established for a period of 4 years and will be subjected to review, adaptation and enhancement during and after that period.

## **1. ECONOMIC COOPERATION**

### **i. Agriculture**

To enhance agricultural education, science and research, India will provide 25 PhD and 50 Masters' scholarships per annum for four years to African students in agriculture in Indian Universities/Institutions. The scholarships will cover different disciplines in agriculture. In order to ensure equitable distribution, the AU Commission will coordinate the process of selecting the prospective candidates in conjunction with the Government of India and its embassies in Africa.

#### **India will also provide:**

- Customized short-term trainings related to transferable skills focusing on training of trainers who will transfer expertise to stakeholders at national level;
- Targeted visits of Indian professionals for field demonstrations based on mutually agreed objectives and mission with beneficiary stakeholders;
- On-the-spot consultations and in-country trainings;
- Provision of essential hardware and software in field demonstrations; and
- Exchange of literature, seed, and planting materials, as well as sharing of best practices in agriculture.

The areas to be covered under this programme will endeavour to include management of livestock and fisheries; management of commodity boards; irrigation and water conservation; and capacity building in the area of agro-processing.

### **ii. Trade, Industry and Investment**

The two sides recognize the need to expand two-way trade, greater market access and investment facilitation and agree to the following:

- India will establish an India-Africa Institute of Foreign Trade based on the model of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade. The institute will provide professional education in the field of International trade and management including studies pertaining to the public and private sectors in Africa. In addition, the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) will provide customized capacity building programmes on international trade and business over a four-year period through the existing bilateral arrangements. This will provide capacity building as the process for the establishment of an India-Africa Institute of Foreign Trade is pursued.
- India will also establish an India-Africa Diamond Institute on the model of the Indian Diamond Institute in an African country. The Institute will help to develop African capacities and skills in processing, polishing, and grading raw diamonds.
- India's Duty-Free and Tariff Preference (DFTP) Scheme for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in Africa, which has been widely welcomed and which allows access for African goods and services to the growing Indian market, will be continued. Information sharing on the DFTP scheme has been carried out through various fora and will be enhanced under this Plan of Action.
- To enhance private sector interaction and building of entrepreneurship and business-to-business linkages, the following initiatives will be undertaken:
  - Preparation of an India-Africa Business Guide to highlight opportunities on both sides for trade and investment, through the Chambers of Commerce of the two sides;
  - Organization of Business Councils or meetings at the Regional level between Indian and African economic operators, in order to examine business opportunities offered by both economies; and
  - Upgrading industrial supply-side capacities and enhancing competitiveness; and exchange of best practices between African and Indian Investment Promotion Agencies.

### **iii. Small and Medium- Scale Enterprises (SMEs)**

Small and Medium-Scale Enterprises are at the core of economic development through the private sectors of Africa and India. They contribute to exports, transfer of technology, employment generation, development of regional trade and entrepreneurship. In this respect and to promote the development of capacities and support transfer of technology, the following actions will be undertaken:

- India will establish ten (10) vocational training centers in Africa through the National Small Industries Corporation. Thereafter, it will support existing vocational training institutions in Africa.

- India will offer generous Lines of Credit on concessional terms to a large number of African countries; undertake programmes for development of capacity building in Africa and support the Chambers of Commerce in India to hold India-Africa Annual Conclave and other similar initiatives.
- Programmes to provide enabling infrastructure and conducive operating environment for SMEs and Small and Medium-Scale Industries (SMLs) in Africa will be created as well as joint ventures between African and Indian SMEs including the development of business guides for the establishment of SMEs in Africa and India as a means of youth employment.

#### **iv. Finance**

- Recognizing that finance is critical to the implementation of the Plan of Action, India announced at IAFS 2008 that it will provide about 5.4 billion United States Dollars in Lines of Credit to African countries and institutions over the 5-year period. A separate provision of 500 million USD to develop capacities in Africa, of which nearly half is committed to this continental level Joint Plan of Action is envisaged..
- These financial provisions will support the integration of Africa through:
  - Provision of regional infrastructure among other programmes;
  - Provision of support for capacity building and development of a Pan-African Stock Exchanges;
  - Consultations between African Ministers of Finance and Economic Development and their Indian counterparts to share experiences; and
  - Sharing of experiences on the mobilization of domestic savings and the strengthening of Micro-Finance institutions in Africa.

#### **v. Regional Integration**

- Regional integration is an important objective for Africa and various efforts to harmonize the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) through the promotion of integrated projects are ongoing. India has subsisting engagements with many of the RECs and has developed an implementation process for this purpose. Consequently, India agrees to consider financial support to mutually agreed integration programmes carried out by the African Union and the RECs, especially those of inter-regional and continental importance. India will provide a line of credit of USD 300 million to support regional integrational infrastructure projects through the AU.

### **3. POLITICAL COOPERATION**

Bearing in mind that peace, security and development are inter-linked, the two sides agree to:

#### **i. Peace and Security**

- Enhance the capacity of African Governments, institutions and various stakeholders in the implementation of UN Resolution 1325 on women's role in the peace process;
- Cooperate in efforts to combat illicit drug trafficking and abuse, as well as small arms and light weapons; and
- Cooperate in developing and implementing training of trainers towards enhancing the civilian component of peacekeeping operations.

#### **ii. Civil Society and Good Governance**

- Strengthen the African Court on Human and People's Rights through sharing best practices, capacity building of the court and provision of equipment and the mobilization of resources for the activities of the court;
- Promote the interaction of legal experts/lawyers through the Bar Associations, and cooperation in legal research methodology and on emerging international legal issues and regulatory framework that support outsourcing; and
- Exchange experiences on best practices, research and human resources within the framework of decentralization and local governance alongside the conference of Ministers of Public Services and Administration and ECOSSOC.

### **3. SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**

#### **i. Science and Technology**

Conscious of the fact that science, technology, research and development are fundamentals and major catalysts for socio-economic activities, the two sides agree to the following:

- Proposals for enhancement of research, development and scientific exchanges involving programmes and events to discuss issues of policy transfer of technology mechanisms through the institutional strengthening of three institutions and capacity building will be undertaken;
- India-Africa Science and Technology Conference will be organized to plan an agenda;
- India will support institutional strengthening in areas of mutual interest;
- India will provide training in areas like HIV, TB and Malaria;

- India will support Africa for its research and development efforts through specific fellowships named after CV Raman which will be implemented bilaterally. These will cover medium term and long term support for researchers and post doctoral fellows; and
- Consideration will be given to the proposal for the training of journalists in scientific journalism.

## **ii. Information and Communication Technology (ICT)**

Recognizing the contribution made by Information Technology to the economic development of Africa and India:

- Both sides welcome the establishment of the Pan-African e-network project which supports the developmental goals of African countries in the education, health and communication sectors. Both sides agree to the early completion and implementation of this important project.
- India will establish an India-Africa Institute of Information Technology which would bridge the gap between academia and industry, and serve as a think-tank for the professional development of IT and provide capacity building and education for the growth of IT in Africa.
- India will support the African Union's initiative in this sector and support capacity building to this end through the ITEC programme. Africa's desire to have India participate in the implementation of the interconnection of all African capital cities with broadband network by 2012 and work with Africa to build continental and national e-strategies including the development of all e-applications would be jointly developed by both sides.

## **5. COOPERATION IN SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING**

Recognizing the importance of human capacity enhancement in the attainment of socio-development objectives, the two sides agree to the following:

### **i. Education**

- India will establish an India-Africa Institute of Education Planning and Administration, which will provide academic and professional guidance to agencies and institutions engaged in educational planning and administration in Africa.
- India will consider collaborative development of high quality open source Overseas Development Learning training materials for teachers and various categories of school managers.

- India will develop training workshops on local and low cost production of educational materials;
- India will assist in the development of TVET programmes aligned with labor market demands for both formal and informal economies, and global economic trends.

## **ii. Health**

- India will organize an India-Africa workshop on traditional medicine to highlight the commonalities in approach and sharing of experience.
- Both sides will strengthen public and private sectors collaboration in the areas of pharmaceutical production and procurement in Africa and India in the framework of pharmaceutical manufacturing plan for Africa;
- Both sides will support collaboration in research and development in traditional medicine and practices in Africa and India;
- Both sides agree to share experiences, specialized expertise and best practices in healthcare systems development and community health programmes;
- India will collaborate with Africa in training and continuing education for health professionals; the Pan-African e-network tele-medicine component supports CME and the training of health professionals in various sectors already part of ongoing bilateral and regional programmes.

## **iii. Water and Sanitation**

- India will organize seven training programmes in specialized areas by reputed training/research/academic institutions in India. Up to 50 participants per course will be invited through the African Union.
- India will also support African institutions and initiatives in the field of integrated water management through proposals to be mutually decided.
- India will fully support Africa in attaining the MDGs in the areas of water and sanitation.

## **iv. Culture and Sports**

- Africa and India will endeavor to jointly:
  - (i) Promote film and TV cultural programme exchanges;
  - (ii) Organize joint international training for trainers in the field of cultural goods protection and cultural industries;



- (iii) Jointly study the establishment of regional laboratories for doping control in Africa and India;
- (iv) Organize joint international trainings of trainers in the field of sports management and development, including sports medical care; and
- (v) Organize youth cultural and sports festivals through events like Africa-India Week and by tapping the talent of the large African student presence in India through the Indian Council for Cultural Relations.

#### **v. Poverty Eradication**

- Support for the goal of poverty eradication through the following specific programmes will be undertaken:
  - Organization of seminars/exhibitions across Africa, including through public/private partnerships;
  - Construction of prototype low-cost houses in 5 African countries, one per region
  - Exchange of cost-sharing experiences in the construction of demonstration houses in 5 African countries, one per region.
- Both sides agree to share best practices in the development of credit unions, especially in rural settings;
- Promotion of micro-finance projects in Africa.

#### **5. TOURISM**

Recognizing that tourism provides economic benefits and promotes friendship and socio-economic understanding among nations, the two sides agree as follows:

- India will sponsor a study towards the harmonization of policies and norms in the tourism sector in cooperation with relevant institutions in Africa;
- Both sides will strengthen partnership with the private sector especially travel agencies, hotels, airlines and other tourism related establishments, as well as the media, with a view to advancing tourism development between the two regions; and
- Both sides will promote general tourism and offering joint tourism packages, including eco-tourism, to utilize the geographical diversity of the two sides.

#### **6. INFRASTRUCTURE, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT**

Recognizing that infrastructure, energy and environment are fundamental to the economic growth of developing countries, the two sides agree as follows:

- Training programmes for up to 50 African participants (annually) at the National Institute for Training of Highway Engineers (NITHE) will be provided by India.

#### **iv. Energy**

- Note that India has actively engaged with Africa through the India Africa Hydrocarbon Conferences and welcomes India's commitment to work with Africa to process its resources including by establishing refineries in some countries.
- Define together with the RECs, the regional power pools and national governments concrete projects in the field of hydropower, wind and bio-energy in African countries, which have high potential; and
- Cooperation to explore renewable sources of energy in Africa.

#### **v. Transport**

##### **d. Maritime Transport**

- Develop and promote mutual assistance and cooperation in the area of maritime safety and security, prevention and protection of the main environment and port users;
- Work for the creation of regional coast guard networks (North, West, Central, East and South) and surveillance facilities;
- Develop Africa's training in the area of maritime and harbor administration; and
- Collaborate and exchange information in the area of maritime transport, harbor management, safety, security and preventing, controlling and combating pollution, particularly through training, exchange of skills and knowledge programmes;

In all these areas more specific proposals will be developed by experts from the two sides.

##### **e. Air Transport**

- Coordination of the respective external air transport policies; and
- Identification and development of hubs for air bridge to support airlines operations between the two regions and beyond.

The African side will provide a concept note on these in order to create a dialogue between African and Indian authorities.

##### **f. Land Transport**

- Status Quo Assessment of the Trans African Highway (TAH) Network; and
- Development of a road safety strategy for the African continent.

The African side will develop and provide India with concept notes on both projects.

## **vi. Environment**

- Elaboration of specific programs to combat desertification and climate change which constitute major challenges for the international community; and
- Sharing of experiences on projects for carbon development mechanisms.

TERI's MOU with ECA and support to the Africa Climate Policy Centre is also recognised. The Indian initiative to have an African section at the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit annually organized by TERI in February in New Delhi initiated since 2009 will be utilized to foster closer engagement among the environmental policy makers in India and Africa.

## **7. MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION**

Bearing in mind that closer linkage in the field of media and communication will generate greater synergy in their relationship, the two sides agree to:

- Cooperate in human resource training in the area of modern corporate communications using modern technology (ICT) and the development of language skills; and
- Provide assistance in the production of documentary videos, which are effective in disseminating information on specific missions or interventions.

Other programmes in this area could be undertaken through existing ITEC programmes and through the Public Diplomacy Division in India. These would be discussed between the African Union Commission and the Permanent Mission of India to the AU.

Similarly, an exchange of media delegations, editors' conferences and training of media persons will form part of the initiatives that India is taking in Africa. These will be undertaken regionally and bilaterally.

8. With respect to the institutions to be established in Africa, namely, India-Africa Institute of Foreign Trade; India-Africa Diamond Institute; India-Africa Institute of Information Technology; India-Africa Institute of Education Planning and Administration; Pan-African Stock Exchange and India-Africa Vocational Training Centers, the host countries undertake to facilitate their establishment and sustenance including:

- Land for the Institutions;
- Building infrastructure;
- Budgetary provision for recurring costs;
- Governance structures for administration and running of the Institutions; and
- Business plan for future development and sustainability.

On its part India will establish and equip the institutions and maintain them for a period of three years.

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As on 24/02/2011

**Summary of LOCs extended to West African Countries**

(Figures in US \$ Million)

Country	ECOWAS	TEAM 9	NEPAD	BILATERAL	TOTAL
Angola	-	-	-	85.00	85.00
Benin	18.80	-	-	15.00	33.80
Burkina Faso	15.14	55.97	-	5.00	71.11
Cameroon	-	-	-	37.66	37.66
Cape Verde	-	-	-	@@	-
Central African Republic	-	-	-	29.50	29.50
Chad	-	50.00	-	@	50.00
Congo (DRC)	-	-	33.50	25.00	58.50
Congo(ROC)	-	-	-	-	-
Cote'd Ivoire	-	52.30	-	114.00	166.30
Equatorial Guinea	-	15.00	-	-	15.00
Gabon	-	-	-	14.50	14.50
Gambia	20.00	-	16.70	-	36.70
<b>Ghana</b>	<b>45.01</b>	<b>85.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>63.72</b>	<b>193.73</b>
Guinea	28.51	-	-	-	28.51
Guinea Bissau	-	25.00#	-	-	25.00
Liberia					
<b>Mali</b>	<b>30.00</b>	<b>102.00*</b>	<b>20.62</b>	<b>51.00</b>	<b>203.62</b>
Mauritania^	-	-	-	-	-
Niger	-	20.00	17.00	-	37.00
Nigeria	-	-	-	100.00##	100.00
<b><u>Sao Tome &amp; Principe</u></b>	-	-	-	@@@	-
<b>Senegal</b>	<b>29.83</b>	<b>73.00</b>	<b>7.08</b>	<b>37.87</b>	<b>142.78</b>
Sierra Leone	29.45	-	-	45.00	74.50
Togo	33.04	-	-	-	33.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>249.78</b>	<b>478.27</b>	<b>94.90</b>	<b>623.25</b>	<b>1446.20</b>

@During the DRC FM's visit on 29.10.2009, US\$263mn worth fresh LOCs announced.

@@During Cape Verde FM's visit on 20.11.2009, US\$5mn LOC was announced.

@@@During STP FM's visit on 1.12.2009, US\$5mn LOC was announced.

# The response of the new Guinea Bissau government and specific recommendations of our Ambassador in Dakar are awaited. LOCs for US\$ 15million have been earmarked and for balance US\$ 10 million fresh requests to be processed.

\* Out of US\$102 mn, US\$20 mn is for utilization on the Cote d'Ivoire side for the Electricity Transmission Line.

^ The data does not include figures for Mauritania as the LOC has been withheld following the coup.

**##In Dec.2009, Nigeria said that it would use this LOC for 4 power generation projects. DPRs received in Feb.2010. Under process.**

**The above list does not include approval of US\$100 million to ECOWAS Bank(EBID) (5/2010)**

**(File No. AA/PARL/125/77/10)**

### **Recommendation No.13**

The Committee note that MoU between the Government of India and Government of Nepal was signed in 2005 for implementation of various projects in Nepal but not much headway has been made so far. The Committee are aware of the circumstances which have adversely affected the pace of implementation of various projects. However, the Committee urge the Government to speed up implementation of various programme for which agreements have been signed and execute the projects for creation of four Integrated Check Posts (ICPs). The Committee would also like to underline the importance of ICP projects in view of the change in political and security scenario within the region and desire that these should be executed on priority basis. The Committee are also of the view that once these ICPs are built, the Ministry should be able to identify and undertake more ICP projects in future.

### **Reply of the Government**

The Government has approved the construction of two Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) on India-Nepal border crossings at (i) Raxual (India) and Birgunj (Nepal) and (ii) Jogbani (India) and Biratnagar (Nepal) in Phase I. M/s RITES has been appointed as consultant for the project. The Ministry of External Affairs is supervising and funding the construction of the ICPs on the Nepalese side (Birgunj & Biratnagar) while MHA is supervising and funding the expenditure on the Indian side (Raxual & Jogbani).

The tender for construction of the ICP at Birgunj has been awarded and construction work has commenced at the site.

The construction of the ICPs is expected to be completed in fourteen months. The Ministry will be regularly monitoring the implementation of the project with the Consultant to ensure its early completion, as per the timeline.

In Phase II, construction of ICPs at Sunauli (India) –Bhairahawa (Nepal), and Nepalgunj Road (India) –Nepalgunj (Nepal) will be undertaken.

**(File No. AA/PARL/125/77/10)**

## **Recommendation No. 15**

The Committee in their earlier Report have stressed upon the need to enhance India's engagement with Latin American and African countries. Besides being strategically and politically significant for India, these regions offer immense economic opportunities. The Committee take note of the start of the process of broad basing of India's economic activities in the region. The Committee would like to suggest that the Government should undertake and encourage Indian private sector to take up studies like 'Syria Phosphate Feasibility Study'. The Committee are given to understand that the study will provide inputs on various requirements for developing mines and setting up of Joint Venture phosphate plants. India is already seeking participation in both of them. This will help India in securing fertilizer's resources from Syria. This will pave the way of entering into joint venture from the countries having fertilizer's resources all over the world including the African continent. The Committee are of the opinion that it is pertinent to diversify areas of India's economic engagement with these countries. India should leave an imprint in the field of economic cooperation with these countries.

## **Reply of the Government**

There is no doubt that there are immense economic opportunities available in Africa. Interaction with the private sector is an ongoing process and it is reinforced whenever there is a possibility of economic collaboration with Africa. Interactions are initiated by the Ministry on its own as well as through various Chambers of Commerce and industries in the country.

Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FICCI) organized the 2<sup>nd</sup> India-Africa Hydrocarbon Conference in New Delhi on December 7-8, 2009. The objective of the Conference was to bring together ministers in-charge of oil and gas, top government officers and industry officials for exploring partnership opportunities in Africa. The oil rich countries in Africa and prospective market for our petroleum products were invited for the Conference.

The 6<sup>th</sup> CCI-EXIM Bank Conclave on India Africa Project Partnership organized in New Delhi during March 15-16, 2010 with the active support from the MEA provided a platform for Indian and African leaders to strengthen the bilateral and regional partnerships, increase Indian participation in Africa's long-term development projects, enhance capacity building initiatives and resource mobilization programmes, as well as increase outreach of information on Indian enterprises in Africa.

After the visit of the African Union (A.U.) delegation in March, 2010, finalisation of locations of various institutions in Africa to be set up under India-Africa Forum Summit, was vigorously taken up with the AU Commission. As a result, the African Union has finalised the following locations for institutions:

- i) India-Africa Institute of Information Technology – Ghana
- ii) India-Africa Institute of Foreign Trade- Uganda

- iii) India-Africa Institute of Educational Planning and Administration – Burundi
- iv) 10 Vocational Training Centres in Africa – 8 locations of Vocational Training Centres in Burundi, Burkina Faso, Gabon, Gambia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya and Rwanda have been finalised by the African Union. Locations of two Vocational Training Centres in Southern Africa are yet to be finalised by the A.U. Commission.
- (v) Human Settlement Centres: One unit of Human Settlement Centres has been allocated to Kenya and Togo.
- (v) India-Africa Institute of Foreign Trade- Uganda
- (vii) India-Africa Diamond Institute – location yet to be intimated by African Union.

Questionnaires have been forwarded to host countries to provide data, which would help the implementing agency in India to plan their visit for preparation of Detailed Project Reports and hold discussions with the functionaries of host countries.

AU Commission is being continuously reminded to finalise the location of remaining institutions and action regarding forwarding of questionnaires and placement of funds for the visit of representatives of implementing agencies from our side for preparing Detailed Project Reports and discussions, will be taken as soon as the locations of the institutions are finalised.

The ASSOCHAM organized a conference on 'India-Africa Agri Partnership' on 27 March, 2010 in Patiala in which approximately 700 participants, mainly agriculturalists from Punjab and neighbouring States were briefed on potential of Africa in agriculture field and to encourage them to collaborate and assist the Africans in generating employment to them and also increase their agricultural produces. Any surplus grain from Africa could be exported to India and elsewhere so as to ensure food security of Africa and India both.

On May 6-7, 2010, the Ministry actively participated in a FICCI organized Business Forum on Commercial farming which was attended among others by noted executives from private sector.

Our relations with countries of North African region were strengthened further in several areas including through cooperation in the energy, trade, and investment sectors. New contracts for power transmission lines were secured by Indian companies in Algeria. There have been regular exchange of visits, including the visits of Hon'ble Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Shri Murli Deora, to Sudan in January, 2010, and the Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry, Shri Anand Sharma, to Egypt in October, 2009.

A delegation of regional communities from Africa was in New Delhi from 14-17 November, 2010 to discuss the regional component of the Plan of Action of the programme agreed at the IAFS 2008. The head of delegations of 7 participating Regional Economic Communities (REC's) from Africa participated in discussions with the partners in the Govt. of India and prospective agencies of Govt. of India for implementation of the Plan of Action. The Heads of the REC's have been requested to forward 5-6 selective large and viable projects for setting up of institutions, which could be implemented on priority.

Several training courses for capacity building in the field of food processing, agriculture, training for law enforcing officers, etc. have been processed and our Missions as well as African diplomatic Missions in New Delhi

have been requested to seek nominations from the African countries so that the training programmes are a success. The success of the training programmes however depends upon more on the African side than the GOI.

The existing joint ventures in the fertilizers sector in this region, i.e. Indo-Maroco Phosphore S.A. (IMACID), in Morocco, and Tunisia-India Fertilizer Company (TIFERT) in Tunisia have also been working satisfactorily.

India's engagement with the Latin American countries has increased manifold in recent times both bilaterally and multilaterally. In the last quarter, exchanges of ministerial level visits have been complemented by business-to-business interactions. Agriculture Minister led a large delegation to Mexico, Brazil and Argentina; Minister of State, Commerce and Industry led a large business delegation to Chile, Peru and Brazil and; FIEO led a large delegation to Colombia during that period. In the last one year, Indian investments in the LAC region have diversified encompassing hydrocarbons, pharmaceuticals, mining, IT and agribusiness sectors. MEA encourages the efforts of CII and FICCI in organizing India-LAC business conclaves every year to help out business to explore investment and trade opportunities in the LAC Region.

**(File No. AA/PARL/125/77/10)**

### **Recommendation No.16**

The Committee note that the Ministry of External Affairs treats the 'Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme' as a flagship programme of Government of India reflecting the true spirit of South-South Cooperation. But the enhancement in expenditure from Rs. 70 crores at BE 2009-10 to Rs. 85 crores at RE 2009-10 stage and BE 2010-11 at Rs. 100 crores is mainly due to revision in procedural expenditures. This shows that there is very little addition in projects/programmes being organized in these countries. The Committee are of the view that under the programme, Government must look beyond the IT sector to diversify and propel the programme to the next phase. In ITEC programmes India should capitalize on its expertise in other emerging sectors like pharma, biotechnology etc. that will also help in the capacity building in the recipient countries. The Committee also desire that the requests from these countries should get preference and if required fund allocation should be augmented at RE stage.

### **Reply of the Government**

In order to ensure that the ITEC participants carry with them an overall positive impression about the ITEC programme and the latter has the right impact, Ministry took measures with regard to (a) improvement of living conditions for participants during their stay in India and (b) upgradation of training facilities. Apart from these factors, increased utilization of ITEC slots during 2009-10 as compared to previous year and organisation of specialized courses in the fields of (i) Wind Turbine Technology, (ii) Mineral Exploration, (iii) Geographic Information System, (iv) Leadership Programme for Postmasters and Managers and (v) Solar Energy Technology contributed in the enhancement of budget from Rs. 70 crores at BE 2009-10 to Rs. 85 crores at RE 2009-10. It may be mentioned here that due to India's advancement in IT sector, developing countries look towards India for training facilities in this field. Therefore, the share of IT slots in the ITEC is higher as compared to slots in other sectors.



2. Under ITEC, Ministry conducts 200 short, medium and long term courses in a variety of fields such as IT, Linguistics, Finance, Accounts, Audit and Banking, Planning and Administration, Management and Governance, Crime Records, Rural Development and Parliamentary Studies. As regards courses in pharma and biotechnology are concerned, the Ministry conducts a course each on drugs and pharmaceuticals every year through National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Mohali and on biotechnology through The Energy and Research Institute (TERI) respectively.

3. For the year 2010-11, Ministry has decided to increase the number of courses to be organized to 232 courses as opposed to about 200 courses organized during 2009-10. Similarly, number of ITEC slots has also been increased during 2010-11.

4. ITEC is a demand-driven, response-oriented and fully-funded programme of Government of India. Since its inception in 1964, ITEC has expanded manifold and today covers 159 partner countries spread across Asia and the Pacific, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Eastern Europe and CIS countries. As and when a request is received from any of our ITEC partner countries seeking training in a particular field, it is considered favourably.

**(File No. AA/PARL/125/77/10)**

#### **Recommendation No.17**

Economic Diplomacy has emerged as one of the key areas of engagement and an important instrument to enlarge India's sphere of influence within the developing and less developed countries. The Committee note that the allocation is made under two different heads, 'Investment and Technology Promotion' and 'Investment Promotion and Publicity Programme'. The Committee note that the objectives of these two programmes are different yet the Ministry has furnished overlapping replies regarding details of expenditure under these programmes. The Committee further note that the allocation for extending Line of Credits (LoCs) to developing countries is abysmally low. The Committee feel that in the era of competing influences over the less developed countries by emerging economies, the Ministry should adopt a more liberal policy towards extension of LoCs. The Committee suggest that efforts should be made to increase the allocation and it should be at least in tune with India's global aspirations.

The Committee take note of the new initiative undertaken by MEA called Market Expansion Activity. The Committee are of the opinion that MEA should formulate the basic frame-work before embarking on the project and approving the pending proposals. The Committee would like to suggest that in the era of increased economic engagement with the world, it is pertinent for Government to take such initiatives which enable India to look for economic opportunity across the continents.

## Reply of the Government

It is clarified that allocation for investment promotion activities is made only under one head i.e. 'Investment Promotion and Publicity Programme'. There is no head titled 'Investment and Technology Promotion' which is the name of the Division handling this scheme. It is for this reason that the Ministry had given overlapping replies regarding details of expenditure.

2. The Indian Development Economic Assistance Scheme (IDEAS) under which Lines of Credit (LOCs) are extended was started in 2004-05. At the India-Africa New Delhi Summit in April 2008, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh announced India's commitment to more than double the amount on Lines of Credit to Africa to US\$ 5.4 billion, beginning 2009-10 over a period of five years.. The annual budget for Lines of Credit (LOCs) is quite substantial. It has been enhanced to US\$ 1700 million (Rs. 7650 crores) per annum w.e.f. 2010-11.

3. The Lines of Credit are extended by Exim Bank on behalf of GOI who provides government guarantee for repayment and Interest Equalization Support to Exim Bank to make up the interest differential between rates of interest charged to borrowing countries and the rate at which Exim Bank borrows money from the international market.

4. Since Interest Equalization Support for LOCs to all countries except Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal is provided by Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), the major part of the funding for LOCs would be reflected in DEA's budget. Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) only provides Interest Equalization Support for LOCs to Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal. The allocation for LOCs under 'Investment Promotion and Publicity Programme' budget relates to Interest Equalization Support extended by Ministry of External Affairs to EXIM Bank for LOCs to Cambodia, Vietnam and Sri Lanka, over and above the concessional terms extended by DEA to give further concessional terms to these countries for political and strategic reasons. It does not reflect the entire LOC budget.

5. It may be mentioned that EXIM Bank borrows money from the international market for extending LOCs. The interest differential between the market borrowing rate and the concessional interest rate charged to developing countries is made up by GOI through interest equalization support to EXIM Bank. This differential is paid by the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA). Therefore, the major part of the funding for interest equalization support to be paid to EXIM Bank for LOCs is reflected in DEA's budget. MEA's budget only reflects interest equalization support for a few LOCs where MEA has decided to give further concessions.

6. The market expansion activities scheme was launched in 2009-10 for carrying out various activities such as market surveys, seminars, conferences, participation in trade fairs, organizing buyer seller meets, publicizing investment opportunities etc. MEA has already prepared detailed guidelines for utilization of this budget by Missions which have been circulated to them for reference and use in ensuring utilization of the funds in a productive and effective manner.

**(File No. AA/PARL/125/77/10)**

### **Recommendation No.19**

The Committee are happy to note that activities of ICCR have received a significant boost with its allocation of additional resources by the Government of India. In 2008-09, allocation was of Rs. 85 crores which was enhanced to Rs. 168.50 crores during BE 2009-10 but slightly revised at RE Rs. 149.54 crores. Budget allocation for 2010-11 is Rs. 150 crores. The Committee note that in view of increasing important role of ICCR, it will have to increasingly interact with private sector agencies for various purposes. Therefore, the Committee, expect that ICCR should overhaul present mechanism for identification of such agencies and artists. For this purpose an Empanelment Committee is in position. This Committee should scrutinise all the proposals so as to make the entire process more transparent. The Committee also recommend that in-house monitoring mechanism should be built to oversee optimal utilization of resources.

### **Reply of the Government**

Empanelment of all artistes on the Council's Reference List is decided by seven different Empanelment sub-Committees covering different categories of performing arts, each comprising well-known experts and senior practitioners in that particular field and completely independent of the Council. All requests for empanelment/upgradation received from individual artistes/groups are evaluated by these Committee, which meet at least once a year. The Council plays the strictly secretarial role of collating and categorizing all applications received, and compiling the Minutes of these meetings, without making any proposals/suggestions of its own. The recommendations of the Empanelment Committees are put up for approval to the Empanelment Advisory Committee of the Council, comprising eminent critics and experts, whose decisions are based strictly on the merit of the applicants proposed by sub-Committees. Complete transparency of procedure and independence of decision-making is maintained throughout the exercise, without any interference from the Council. It may be underlined that no artiste or group can be empanelled by the ICCR without scrutiny and recommendation of the Empanelment Committees.

**(File No. AA/PARL/125/77/10)**

### **Recommendation No.20**

The Committee note that the Passport Seva Project is still at the experimentation stage and repeated postponement in launching have raised many doubts about the future of the project. The Committee are not happy to note the developments in this regard nor the invoking of penalty clause on service provider placates the Committee. The Ministry has assured the Committee that the service provider has been sensitized on the importance of timely delivery of the project and after processing sizable number of applications smoothly, the date of launching of the project will be announced. The Committee take note of the efforts made by Ministry to ensure that there are no errors in the system, and want that due care should be taken to check the loopholes in the system. The Committee reiterate their earlier recommendation that Ministry

should endeavour to launch the project at the earliest and also desire that the efforts should be made to ensure that the project attain the world class standard and flawless compliance as it deals with critical and sensitive matter of issuance of Passport.

### **Reply of the Government**

The Passport Seva Project (PSP) was operationalised at 3 Passport Seva Kendras (PSK) under the jurisdiction of Regional Passport Office, Chandigarh on August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010. All the seven Pilot centres of Passport Seva Project have been functioning satisfactorily but for initial crowding issues faced at PSKs in Bengaluru due to overwhelming response. As on November 24, 2010, a total of 1,63,011 applications were accepted at PSKs and 1,14,529 passports were dispatched in the Passport Seva Project system. The National Call Centre is operational to attend to the queries of applicants under the jurisdiction of passport offices at Bengaluru and Chandigarh. The Third Party Audit Agency (3PAA) engaged by the Ministry (Standardisation, Testing and Quality Certification Directorate-STQC) is in the process of certification of the Pilot phase after which roll out of 70 PSKs across the country will take place. According to the plan submitted by the Service Provider, all the remaining 70 PSKs are expected to be set up during 2011.

**(File No. AA/PARL/125/77/10)**

### **Recommendation No.22**

The Committee have repeatedly suggested that MEA should chalk out a comprehensive plan to either acquire suitable properties or to take up the matter with the respective State Governments for early allotment of suitable land for the construction of Passport offices as well as the residential complexes on priority basis. The Committee are deeply concerned to note that out of total of 37 Passport Offices, 19 Passport Offices are still functioning from rented buildings. Though 8 Passport Offices have already purchased land, the construction of their own building is yet to start. The Committee desire that due care should be taken in formulation of building designs and structure, based on futuristic projection of Passport Seva Kendras/e-passport and the increase in number of Passport Seekers and others availing of the services of Passport Offices. The Committee also reiterate that efforts should be made to acquire land for the rest of the Passport Offices at the earliest.

The Committee take note of the fact that various projects undertaken by the Ministry are not completed within schedule which results in huge cost and time overruns. The Committee desire that MEA should prepare stipulated timeframe to ensure quick execution and timely completion of projects. Stringent monitoring mechanism should also be put in place to avoid cost and time overruns and for ensuring optimum utilization of resources.

### **Reply of the Government**

There are set procedures and norms of Government of India for monitoring and supervising the projects taken up by various Ministries and Departments.

i The Ministry follows these procedures and norms scrupulously.

Upon receiving the detailed project proposals, the Ministry scrutinizes and as per prevailing norms approves the proposals. Internal Finance Division scrutinizes the cost estimates in detail and conveys its concurrence.

i The overall supervision is done in consultation with the concerned Indian Mission on the ground. Projects have provisions for Project Monitoring Committees which include representatives of the Ministry, concerned Mission and stake-holders.

To implement the project credible implementing agencies are employed. All possible mechanisms are put in place for feedback, evaluation and to ensure that the targeted population is benefited.

### **Passport Offices**

It is submitted that in the last 2-3 years, MEA has constructed passport office buildings/residences at Bangalore, Jaipur, Lucknow and Bhuvneshwar. At present, there are 37 Passport Offices, out of which 19 are functioning from GOI/MEA-owned buildings. The remaining 18 are functioning in rented buildings. However, Ministry has already purchased land for the following 8 Passport offices. The process of construction is regularly monitored and the latest position is as under:

1. **Guwahati:** CPWD has been asked to revise drawings due to change in the requirement of space in passport Office building in the wake of opening of Mini Passport Seva Kendras.
2. **Jalandhar:** CPWD has submitted a Preliminary Estimate amounting to Rs.13.33 crore and is being scrutinized by the Ministry. Drawings are still awaited from CPWD.
3. **Srinagar:** MEA has approved the Concept Drawings and CPWD has been asked to submit Preliminary Estimate. Work for construction of access road is in progress at site. The speed of construction is hampered by law and order problems in J&K.
4. **Surat :** Preliminary Estimate amounting to Rs,18.19 crore has been approved by MEA and NBCC has submitted drawings to Surat Municipal Corporation for approval.
5. **Mumbai:** The basement has already been constructed and financial bids are being opened by CPWD for construction of superstructure. Ministry has released Rs.9.05 crore for the construction of PO Building.
6. **Vizag:** The construction of Passport Office building is complete and Passport Officer is asked to shift to new premises at the earliest.

7. **Amritsar:** The land has been purchased and NBCC has been awarded the work of construction of Passport Office building. However, due to change in zoning plans of the area, the requisite Floor Area for construction of building is not available. Hence, Principal Secretary, Local Bodies, Government of Punjab, has been requested by the Ministry to restore the original building bye-laws.

8. **Pune:** Transfer of land from PMC to Passport Office is underway. Draft lease deed has been finalized by the Ministry and PO is asked to register the land in the name of Ministry.

Of the remaining 10 Passport Offices, a plot of land admeasuring 2594 sqm has been allotted by the Utrakhand Government at a cost of Rs.57.08 lakh and payment is being made by the Controller of Accounts to acquire the plot after approval of Foreign Secretary. A plot of land admeasuring 22000 sq.ft. has been reserved by State Government of Madhya Pradesh and has asked its Revenue Department to allot the land for construction of Passport Office building. Efforts are on to acquire land at all the remaining locations.

As regards purchase of land for the remaining Passport Offices, State Government of Kerala has offered plot of land to MEA at Thiruvananthapuram which is under consideration of the Ministry. The Ministry through its respective Passport Offices have been actively pursuing the case of allotment of land with respective State Governments. The recommendations of the Committee regarding the purchase of land and futuristic design of the Passport Offices will be kept in mind.

## **China**

The Projects Division is undertaking a number of projects in China like construction of new Chancery Building in Beijing and purchase of plot for Consulate General of Guangzhou. The East Asia Division has limited role in these projects. However, the recommendations of the Standing Committee will be borne in mind while implementing these projects.

## **Nepal and Bhutan**

All efforts are made to ensure that spending by the Ministry and Embassies in Kathmandu and Thimpu adhere to the allocated budget. However, often due to reasons beyond the control of the Division/Missions, payment schedule and the project implementation timelines do not adhere to the schedule of anticipated expenditure. This results from uncertainty arising out of stopping of work, *bandhs*, etc. in Nepal, which is undergoing a political transition. In addition, problems related to law and order hinder implementation of the project and result in delays and consequent cost overruns. Furthermore, some projects as agreed between India and Nepal/Bhutan are implemented by the respective institutions in those countries. Sometimes there are delays in implementation that are not anticipated. More importantly, political imperatives also dictate implementation of the expenditure in order to secure our interests.

There are adequate mechanisms in place to review and monitor the progress of projects being undertaken in Bhutan by GOI such as the Empowered Joint Group (EJG) and the Project Monitoring Committee (PMC). All efforts are made to ensure that there are no time and cost overruns during their implementation and that resources are utilized optimally. Funds are released for projects only upon the receipt and scrutiny of utilization certificates of earlier released funds to ensure that timelines and expenditure schedules are strictly adhered to. The EJG and PMC meet twice a year and extraordinary meetings may be called as required.

### **Eurasian Countries**

A number of projects are being funded under the “Aid to Eurasian Countries” budget head of the Ministry. There have been no cost or time overruns in the implementation of Eurasia Division projects. Some delays have occurred in the initiation of the implementation stage due to various reasons, including tardy procedures on the part of recipient countries. Necessary clauses are included in the agreements signed with the Indian implementing agencies to clearly specify the time schedule of the project. Project monitoring committees are constituted so as to ensure quick execution and timely completion of projects. Meetings of Project Monitoring Committees are held at regular intervals to monitor completion of projects in the stipulated time schedule and with optimum utilization of the funds sanctioned.

### **Afghanistan**

India has undertaken projects in all parts of Afghanistan, in a wide range of sectors, including hydro-electricity, power transmission lines, road construction, industry, telecommunications, information and broadcasting, and capacity building, which have been identified by the Afghan Government as priority areas for reconstruction and development. At present two mega projects namely construction of Afghan Parliament Building in Kabul and Salma Dam in Herat Province are being undertaken in Afghanistan.

As regards the construction of Afghan Parliament Building the wide difference between estimated costs and the actual bids received and approved are on account of the peculiar and extraordinary conditions in Afghanistan and different threat perceptions of the tendering parties. A Project Review and Monitoring Committee under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (PAI) has been constituted. The Committee quarterly reviews the project to ensure timely completion of the project as per already fixed targets. The Committee convenes review and coordination meetings as and when required to expedite physical progress of the project and give directions for resolving related issues as well as problems, if any, causing hindrance to the physical progress of works.

The main reasons for delay in the construction of Salma Dam are non-availability of riverbed materials, non-availability of explosives, frequent security threats, occurrence of sudden flood in April, 2007 and extremely cold weather conditions in dam site area during January and February, 2008. As regards cost escalation the reasons which contributed are increase in cost of labour, fuel, cement, civil and electro-mechanical works due to instable economic and security situation in Afghanistan, Non-availability of dam fill(shell) material(meant

to be sourced originally from the river bed), leading to the need for explosives material for rock-blasting, additional security costs and damage caused by flash flood in April, 2007 and further increase in the cost of imports. In order to ensure timely completion and costs overruns a Project Review and Technical Advisory Committee for the reconstruction and completion of Salma Dam Project in Afghanistan has been constituted. The Committee reviews the utilization of funds, technical aspects, progress of works and special technical problems, if any. The Committee also quarterly review the project to ensure timely completion of the project as per already fixed targets.

### **Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Maldives**

While executing projects in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Maldives, we take utmost care while approving projects and monitoring to ensure timely completion of the project so that the resources are optimally utilized. This is an on-going process.

**(File No. AA/PARL/125/77/10)**

### **Recommendation No.25**

The Committee observe that India is committed to multilateralism in the conduct of international affairs, for which United Nations Organization is the basic institution. India's commitment is reflected in its role and proactive approach in UN Peacekeeping Force and UN Democracy Fund. India believes in strengthening of UN, for which the prime focus has been on United Nations reforms particularly in United Nations General Assembly and United Nations Security Council. The Committee would like to urge the Ministry to adopt proactive approach on the issue of reforms within the UN and engage with the other stakeholders and make coalition with countries who share the same views.

### **Reply of the Government**

1. The Ministry of External Affairs accords high priority to the issue of UN reforms, in particular reform of the Security Council, and has been pro-active on the issue. Various initiatives taken by MEA in this regard are as follows:

- i Visits of official and non-official delegations from India were utilized to present the case for urgent reform of the United Nations in the United Nations General Assembly. EAM led India's official delegations to the 64<sup>th</sup> and 65<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly in September 2009 and September 2010, respectively, and held bilateral meetings with his counterpart from several countries to, *inter alia*, seek their support in expediting UN reform process. EAM also participated in a meeting of G-4 (India, Brazil, Germany, and Japan) Foreign Ministers to consider how to take the issue of United Nations Security Council reform forward.
- ii A non-official delegation of India consisting of 18 Hon'ble Members of Parliament participated in the 64th Session of the General Assembly in October-November 2009 and presented India's view point on, *inter alia*, UN reforms. Similarly, a non-official delegation comprising 18 Members



of Parliament and one former MP participated in the 65th Session of the General Assembly in October-November 2010 and delivered statements on India's position, including on UN reforms.

- iii India, along with Brazil, Germany and Japan (together known as G-4), have been regularly coordinating efforts for expansion of the United Nations Security Council in both permanent and non-permanent categories of membership. Meetings of the G-4 are held regularly to coordinate a joint strategy in this regard.
- iv India has been active in bringing together the L.69 Group consisting of developing countries from Asia, Africa and Latin America supportive of early UNSC expansion. India has been holding coordination meetings of the L.69 to build support for the reform process.
- v Due to the efforts of G-4 and L.69, inter-governmental negotiations on expansion of the Security Council started in an informal plenary of the UN General Assembly in February 2009. This was a significant development after years of fruitless discussions. Till date, five rounds of negotiations have been completed. In these rounds, India together with like-minded countries has strongly advocated urgent action on expansion of the Security Council.
- vi The first four rounds of inter-governmental negotiations were in form of general discussions. With a view to focus the negotiations and move towards a position agreeable to majority of the participants, the G-4 and South Africa undertook an initiative in December 2009 to push for text-based negotiations. They mobilized the support of 140 member states for a joint letter to the Chair of negotiations asking him to prepare a draft text for negotiations. India as a member of the G-4 and as the leader of the L.69 wrote separate letters to the Chair seeking expansion of both permanent and non-permanent membership of the Security Council. This letter catalyzed production of a draft text by the Chair which was used as a basis for the fifth round of negotiations.
- vii Various multilateral summits and meetings were utilized to seek support for Security Council reform. For instance, the Indian delegations to the Summit and Ministerial level meetings of the Non-Aligned Movement, the Commonwealth, and the African Union took up the issue of UN reform with their counterparts from other countries. The UN reform issue was invariably discussed during the bilateral visits and meetings of Indian delegations at different levels.

2. As explained above, the Ministry remains fully committed to reforms within the UN and has utilized every possible opportunity to build support among the UN member states for early reform of the UN.

**(File No. AA/PARL/125/77/10)**

## **Recommendation No.26**

The Committee have been apprised of the security situation in Afghanistan. The Committee appreciate Government of India's resolve to engage in reconstruction of Afghanistan and its commitment towards pluralistic, democratic and united Afghanistan, despite all odds. However, the Committee would urge the Ministry to reexamine its strategy in Afghanistan in view of the changing perception about India in Afghanistan. The Committee are of the firm view that Government should undertake all steps to protect Indian citizens and interests in Afghanistan at all cost. The efforts of some countries to marginalize the role of India in Afghanistan should not be allowed to succeed.

## **Reply of the Government**

India has undertaken projects in all parts of Afghanistan, in a wide range of sectors, including hydro-electricity, power transmission lines, road construction, industry, telecommunications, information and broadcasting, and capacity building, which have been identified by the Afghan Government as priority areas for reconstruction and development. In addition, India has undertaken community level small development projects in the field of agriculture, rural development, education and health throughout Afghanistan that have direct and visible impact on community life and with a focus on local ownership and management. India's assistance programme in Afghanistan is aimed at helping people of Afghanistan in their reconstruction efforts as a means to bring about peace and stability in that country. Government of India is fully committed to assisting our Afghan partners in the process of reconstruction, economic development and human resource development as they build a stable, prosperous, democratic and pluralistic Afghanistan and will not be deterred by forces detrimental to our effort in this direction.

Government has comprehensively reviewed and enhanced security measures being taken for the safety of our personnel and other Indians working in Afghanistan. It is also in regular touch with the Government of Afghanistan, which has assured all necessary steps for the security of Indians in that country. Indian nationals registered with the Embassy are being regularly advised about the prevailing security scenario in the country through security advisories. These advisories outline the precautions that need to be taken for their own safety and security.

**(File No. AA/PARL/125/77/10)**

## **CHAPTER – III**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS/ OBSERVATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT REPLIES**

#### **Recommendation No.3**

The Committee regret to note that there are many discrepancies in facts and figures furnished by the Ministry to the Committee. Moreover, there are variations in the figures contained in various documents prepared by the Ministry. The Committee have observed mistakes in the Brief submitted to the Committee and the Outcome Budget and variance of figures in documents provided by the Ministry. The Committee had highlighted the same issue in its 15<sup>th</sup> Report (14<sup>th</sup> LS) but with no results. The Committee, therefore, would like to reiterate that Ministry should exercise due caution in future while presenting information to the Committee and Parliament.

#### **Reply of the Government**

As explained in the Ministry's earlier responses, the variation of expenditure figure for the year 2008-09 as mentioned in the brief submitted by the Ministry and the figure stated by Foreign Secretary during the course of evidence before the Committee was due to updating of the expenditure data by the accounting authorities. The incorrect figure mentioned inadvertently in the Annual Report 2009-10 is regretted. Similarly the erroneous depiction of percentage figures in the pie-chart appearing in the Outcome Budget 2010-11 at page no. 7 was on account of a software-generated rounding off process. Due to a typographical error, the percentage figure of 0.66 indicating the increase of Budget Estimate 2010-11 of Rs. 6375.00 crores over RE 2009-10 of Rs. 6,333.00 crores was erroneously mentioned as 2.66% in the brief submitted by the Ministry.

The Ministry regrets the inconvenience caused to the Committee due to the inadvertent and unintended discrepancies pointed out by the Committee and will take adequate care and caution for ensuring that no such lapse recurs in documents / information to be submitted to the Committee and Parliament in future.

**(File No. AA/PARL/125/77/10)**

#### **Recommendation No.18**

The Committee recollect that in order to have an organized set up of Project delivery, an agency by name 'India-International Development Cooperation Agency' (IIDCA) was proposed to be set up in 2007-08. The Committee are dismayed to note that Ministry of External Affairs has decided to drop the proposal and failed to convince DoPT even on the basic issues like the rationale behind setting up of India-International Development Cooperation Agency/Indian Agency for Partnership Development. Now it is proposed to meet the designed objectives by strengthening the concerned Divisions of MEA.

The Committee strongly feel that rather than dropping the proposal, the Ministry should have completed the basic ground work before approaching DoPT/ other Ministries or Cabinet. The Committee feel that since, a substantial part of allocation of the Ministry is used for International Projects, it is pertinent for Ministry to evolve an agency with holistic approach and futuristic outlook, equipped with due technical expertise in project delivery and stringent inbuilt monitoring mechanism. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Ministry should rethink about such an agency and move the proposal to establish Indian Agency for Partnership in Development, with clearly defined objectives, sufficient preparation and justification. An agency as proposed earlier may be put in place in order to have an organized set up of project delivery.

### **Reply of the Government**

The Ministry of External Affairs has initiated the process to revive the proposal to establish the Indian Agency for Partnership and Development. The Ministry is presently fleshing out details and will move the proposal at the earliest.

**(File No. AA/PARL/125/77/10)**

## **CHAPTER – IV**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS/ OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE AND REQUIRE REITERATION**

#### **Recommendation No.12**

The Committee are informed that Tala Hydroelectric Project (HEP) in Bhutan is the only Plan project that has recently been completed. The Detailed Project Report Cost of Tala HEP was Rs. 1048 crores as per 1993 price level, which was revised to Rs. 3580 crores in September 2002. However, the final completion cost of the project was Rs. 4125.84 crores in 2007. The Committee do not agree with Ministry's view that the Tala HEP was completed successfully in the best possible cost and timeframe and express anguish over such huge cost overrun in the project. The Committee strongly recommend that the Ministry should devote sufficient time for conducting adequate survey and investigation so as to frame more realistic estimates at the Detailed Project Report (DPR) stage so that such cost and time overrun may not recur.

The Committee would also like to draw the attention of the Ministry towards the low Plant Load Factor since the Tala Hydroelectric Project (HEP) started working and suggest to undertake technical review and appraisal before identification of any other Hydroelectric Project in the region. The Committee would like to advise the Ministry to seek the views of the experts in the field of HEP and consultants about the feasibility, long term sustainability and economic returns from the Hydroelectric projects in the region.

The Committee note that in the light of India's ambitious plan to double the target of hydro-power development in Bhutan to 10,000 MW for export in India by 2020 many more projects are expected to begin shortly. The Committee recommend that proper technical and feasibility studies including Environmental Impact and Risk Assessment, post-facto review and audit of the project should be undertaken and the entire process from identification to completion of the project should be evaluated vigorously.

#### **Reply of the Government**

India extends technical and financial assistance to the Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB) in implementing hydroelectric power projects (HEPs) which belong to RGoB. In the case of the Tala HEP, the Detailed Project Report (DPR) cost was based on 1993 price levels, while the project was commissioned in 2006. Therefore, the cost escalation was mainly due to inflation in the intervening thirteen years. There were also some unavoidable design changes during the construction stage of the project due to geo-technical findings (including surprise geological findings) and further optimization of project components, which could not have been envisaged in the DPR stage. The construction was also hit by unforeseen situations such as the unprecedented flood in the year 2000, that escalated the cost.

In the DPR, the Plant Load Factor (PLF) is indicated as 54.46% on average year generation and 44.34% on 90% dependable year energy generation. The PLF

has been exceeded in 2008 and 2009 (51.60% and 49.20% respectively based on actual energy generation). Lower PLF in 2006 and 2007 was due to partial commissioning of machines and initial teething problems. The power plant is generating to its optimum as per the river flow condition without spillage from the dam.

Care has been taken to ensure that adequate technical review and appraisal is undertaken before identifying/commissioning new HEPs in Bhutan. Views of experts in the field and of specialized consultants have been solicited and incorporated in the preparation of DPRs for the new HEPs with regard to feasibility, long-term sustainability and economic returns. Some DPRs such as for Sankosh, Wangchhu and Bunakha HEPs have been updated to take into account current and projected timelines and cost estimates. There are adequate mechanisms in place to review and monitor the progress and working of the HEPs during and after implementation such as the Empowered Joint Group and the Project Monitoring Committee.

**(File No. AA/PARL/125/77/10)**

#### **Recommendation No.14**

Government of India has made various commitments and provides aid for relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction of war affected people and areas in Sri Lanka. The Committee have noted that as against the announcement of assistance of Rs. 500 crores, only Rs. 90 crores have been budgeted and Rs. 63.49 crores utilized. The Committee find that many of the projects are at the level of planning. The Committee are of the view that Government should identify and approve the project carefully keeping in mind the sentiments of people of Sri Lanka and initiate its execution in an efficient manner in consultation with various stakeholders so as to avoid cost and time overruns.

#### **Reply of the Government**

India is assisting Sri Lanka in resettlement and reconstruction of war-affected Northern and Eastern Provinces. Of the allocated amount of Rs.500 crores during financial year 2009-10, the final utilization for the FY 2009-10 is Rs. 68.96 crores. Initially our focus had been purely humanitarian considering the large number of IDPs emerging out of the conflict zone. We followed this up with assistance for their resettlement which included deploying seven Indian demining teams in Northern Sri Lanka; supplying 7800 MT of shelter material and 95,000 of agricultural implements packs for the returning IDPs; conducting a month long artificial limb fitment camp by a reputed Indian NGO in Northern Sri Lanka; supplying 4 lakh cement bags to help repair their damaged house; supplying seeds and 500 tractors and other agricultural implements for revival of livelihood activities of farmers in Northern Sri Lanka.

In the rehabilitation and reconstruction phase, several other projects are being taken up. During the visit of EAM between November 25-28, 2010, EAM participated in the ground breaking ceremony for the railway project in Northern Sri Lanka being taken up under an Indian line of credit as well as the ground breaking ceremony for construction of a pilot project of 1000 houses for Internally

Displaced Persons (IDPs) of Northern Sri Lanka. Work on the Kankesanthurai Port is also going on schedule. Other projects including the restoration of a stadium in Jaffna, vocational training centres, etc. are at various stages of planning and processing. EAM also handed over tractors and agricultural implements to revive the livelihood of the IDPs. While deciding on the projects, the sentiments of the people is kept in mind, as well as consultations undertaken with various stakeholders.

**(File No. AA/PARL/125/77/10)**

### **Recommendation No.23**

The Committee note that the idea of establishment of South Asian University was mooted in the year 2005 with huge expectations and was visualized as a major initiative to build upon the civilizational and historical linkages and the past shared experiences that will enable the countries of the region to rediscover and rebuild connectivity with the people of the region and reflect upon the commonalities of the region. The Committee note that the academic activities are expected to begin from August 2010 and the anticipated timeframe for the construction of University is 2014-15.

The Committee are, however, not satisfied with the progress made during the last five years. During this period, only land has been acquired for the University. For the namesake there is a proposal to start academic activities in August/September 2010 in rented premises. Draft Statute, Regulations, Academic Structure and Business plan have not been approved so far. The Committee expect that the University should emerge as a center of excellence which cater to academic as well as intellectual pursuits. The curriculum should range from the study of deeper and serious issues of Philosophy and Cultural Studies to the study of contemporary Social Science disciplines, Humanities, Management and Technical Studies. The Committee desire that a well thought out realistic blueprint based on clear intent, aims and objectives for establishing the university and carrying out academic activities should be formulated before initiating any course randomly. The Committee want to be informed of the progress at regular intervals.

### **Reply of the Government**

- While the idea of establishing a South Asian University was mooted in 2005, the formal Agreement between SAARC Member States to establish the South Asian University (SAU) was signed only on 4 April 2007 during the 14<sup>th</sup> SAARC Summit in New Delhi.
- The SAARC Inter-Governmental Steering Committee was convened in May 2007 to conceptualize the academic contours of the University. The Steering Committee, at its 6<sup>th</sup> meeting in March 2010, finalised the University's Statutes, Regulations, Academic Structure and Business Plan. The Sixteenth SAARC Summit (April 2010) took note of the work of the Steering Committee and appreciated the progress being made towards establishing the University.
- The SAU Project Office was established on May 7, 2008. The SAU Bill received the approval of both houses of Parliament on 23 December 2008. After receiving the assent of the President of India on 11 January

2009, the South Asian University Act was notified in the Gazette of India on 13 January 2009. The Headquarters Agreement for establishment of the South Asian University in New Delhi was signed between the Government of India and the SAARC Secretariat on 1 December 2008.

- The Academic Structure of the SAU envisages the creation of Faculties for the study of philosophy, history, culture, languages, religion, social sciences and humanities, as well as scientific and technological disciplines such as engineering, life sciences and bio-technology, earth system sciences, physics, chemistry, mathematics, ICT and medicine.
- The courses and research that will be pursued at the SAU are based on the aims, objectives and intent for establishing such a University. The mandate of the SAU has been spelt out in the Inter-Governmental Agreement of 4 April 2007, which envisages the (i) building of a culture of understanding and regional consciousness; (ii) nurturing a new class of liberal, bright and quality leadership; and (iii) building of the capacity of the region in science, technology and other disciplines considered vital for improving the quality of life of the people.
- As the South Asian University's state-of-the-art campus on its permanent premises is expected to take a few years to complete, academic activities have commenced on 26 August 2010 from rented premises. 50 students from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are already studying at the University.
- The selection of the two courses that were initiated at SAU in August 2010 namely, MA in Development Economics and the Master of Computer Applications, was a well considered decision, having been deliberated upon by the Inter-Governmental Steering Committee and unanimously approved by all SAARC Member States. The courses were considered as covering vital areas for the SAARC region and designed to fully meet the stated objectives of the University.

**(File No. AA/PARL/125/77/10)**

#### **Recommendation No.24**

Nalanda University is an East Asian Summit (EAS) initiative. Nalanda Mentor Group (NMG) has come out with a plan for setting up of the University. The Committee observed that during BE 2009-10, Rs. 50 crores were allocated for Nalanda University which was reduced in RE 2009-10 to Rs. 1.00 crore. The Committee was informed that allocation was sought on the assumption that the proposed Bill would be passed but it could not happen due to postponement of East Asian Summit (EAS). The Committee have been informed that the draft Bill has been formulated. The Committee hope that the Bill will be tabled soon and all efforts are made to pass the Bill to put in place the proper legislative framework. The Committee are of the view that this is a very prestigious project and an important constituent in India's engagement with the East. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the project should not get delayed on account of any procedural reasons. The Committee desire that once the proposal is finalized for setting up of University is finalized by Nalanda Mentor Group, there should be quick and time-bound implementation of the same in an efficient manner.



The Committee are of the view that Nalanda University should be evolved as a centre of excellence and tool of deeper engagement within the region of East Asia and emerge as a facilitator in capitalising the soft power of India. The Committee feel that efforts should be made to evolve such a character and personality of this institution that it can match the historical significance of its name 'Nalanda'.

### **Reply of the Government**

Nalanda University is an East Asian Summit (EAS) initiative. During BE 2009-10, Rs.50 crores were allocated for the Nalanda University, which was reduced in RE 2009-10 to Rs.1 crore. It is proposed to seek an allocation of Rs. 100 crores in BE 2011-12 now that all the legal formalities have been completed for the establishment of the University

The Nalanda University Act 2010 was passed in the Monsoon session of the Parliament (August-September 2010) and received President's assent on 21 September 2010. A Gazette Notification was issued on 19 November 2010 for bringing the Act into force and for the establishment of the Nalanda University w.e.f. 25 November 2010. Meanwhile, the Vice Chancellor-designate has assumed charge w.e.f. 8 October 2010 and has commenced operations from the Project Office in New Delhi.

The Government of Bihar has already agreed to transfer the land acquired for establishing the University once the University is established. The Vice Chancellor-designate has initiated the process with the Government of Bihar for transferring the land to the Nalanda University. A meeting of the Nalanda Mentor Group, which is now the Interim Governing Board of the University, is being held in February 2011 to discuss various administrative issues connected with the establishment of the University, including framing of Statutes, Financial Rules etc.

**(File No. AA/PARL/125/77/10)**

## **CHAPTER – V**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS/ OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH FINAL REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE STILL AWAITED**

#### **Recommendation No.8**

The Committee are dismayed to take note of such small number of interpreters in position at Headquarters and Missions. The Committee have also noted that as and when required the services of interpreters from outside the cadre of Ministry are also availed of. But the Ministry is not able to provide information about the payments made to them during the last three years. The Committee expect that the Ministry should have complete data regarding availing of services of interpreters from outside at Headquarters and Missions and payment made to them. The compilation of such data will facilitate the Ministry to make realistic assessment and requirements of the interpreters language wise. The Committee also feel that as India is increasing its global footprint, it is pertinent to have sufficient number of Interpreters in all major languages. The Committee do not favour the presence of outside interpreters in the important and politically sensitive international meetings. The Committee, therefore, reiterate that adequate study should be undertaken and the Ministry should build and strengthen its interpreter cadre particularly in Non-UN languages.

#### **Reply of the Government**

All the Territorial Divisions have been working on and sharing information about hiring of interpreters at Headquarters. As regards the need to expand the Interpreters' Cadre of the Ministry, it may be noted that all Indian Foreign Service Officers are required to learn a 'Compulsory Foreign Language' before they are confirmed in Service. Therefore, a fair degree of foreign language expertise is available within MEA even apart from the specialized Interpreters Cadre. At present the languages spoken by IFS officers cover Arabic, Chinese, French, Spanish, Russian, German, Italian, Persian, Korean, Japanese, Portuguese, Nepalese, Kiswahili, Bahasa Malay, Thai, Turkish, Bahasa Indonesia, Sinhalese, Vietnamese, Burmese, Dutch and Serbo-Croatian. Indian Missions and Posts abroad also have posts of local interpreters and hence they do not need to hire interpreters in the normal course. Only in exceptional circumstances and during VVIP visits, do they hire additional interpreters to meet the short-term requirement. Since English is spoken in the Foreign Offices of most of the countries in the world, the present number of specialized Interpreters, coupled with the foreign language expertise of IFS officers, and the services of the local hired interpreters in Missions/Posts is felt to be adequate to meet day-to-day needs. Increasing the strength of the specialized Interpreters' Cadre in MEA is also constrained by the fact that members of this Cadre are recruited by UPSC on the basis of their existing academic qualifications and work experience in the concerned language. As such, there are very limited facilities available in Indian academic institutions for teaching of non-UN or single-country foreign languages. Hence, widening of the Interpreters' Cadre to include more languages is likely to pose considerable difficulty at the recruitment stage.

**(File No. AA/PARL/125/77/10)**

### **Recommendation No.21**

Issuance of e-passport also called biometric passport is an ambitious project initiated by the Ministry in June 2008. The Ministry in Annual Report 2008-09 stated that based on the experience gained from the Pilot Project, it was proposed to start issuance of e-passports of ordinary category by the end of 2009. The Committee are given to understand that the inordinate delay in the launch of project is on account of non-procurement of e-booklets from Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL) due to technical reasons. The Committee was further informed that the Technical Committee headed by Director General, NIC is in the process of freezing the technical specifications of inlays. The Committee, therefore, recommend that Ministry should coordinate with Technical Committee for an early finalization of technical specifications in the project followed by initiation of global tendering process so that the project becomes feasible and can be implemented on pan-India basis at the earliest possible opportunity. The Committee may be apprised of the progress made at regular intervals in this regard.

### **Reply of the Government**

The technical bids of e-passport inlays were opened as per established procedure on the scheduled date on July 26, 2010. Following this, the Tender Committee decided that the financial bids would be opened only after receiving fresh clearance from the Technical Committee and a fresh security clearance from the Ministry of Home Affairs for the firm, M/s GEMALTO (a French company) against whom a communication was received from the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) that this company is also supplying the same chip to the Government of Pakistan. The final decision on the award of contract will be taken only after the receipt of technical and security clearance from Ministry of Home Affairs. The matter is being followed up.

**(File No. AA/PARL/125/77/10)**

**NEW DELHI**  
**14 February, 2011**  
**Magha 25, 1932 (Saka)**

**ANANTH KUMAR,**  
**Chairman,**  
**Standing Committee on External Affairs**

**MINUTES OF THE SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS HELD ON 14 FEBRUARY, 2011**

The Committee sat from 1500 hrs to 1545 hrs in Committee Room G 074 in Parliament Library Building, New Delhi.

**PRESENT**

Shri Ananth Kumar - Chairman

**MEMBERS  
Lok Sabha**

2. Shri Anto Antony
3. Shri Vishwa Mohan Kumar
4. Shri Rayapati Sambasiva Rao
5. Dr. Shashi Tharoor
6. Shri Shivkumar Udasi

**Rajya Sabha**

7. Shri Birendra Prasad Baishya
8. Shri H.K.Dua
9. Dr. K.P.Ramalingam
10. Dr. Bharatkumar Raut
11. Dr. Karan Singh
12. Shri Tarun Vijay
13. Shri Shreegopal Vyas

**SECRETARIAT**

Shri R.K.Jain - Director

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee. The Committee then took up for consideration the draft Report on Action Taken on the recommendations contained in the 4th Report (15<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) of the Committee in respect of Demands for Grants of the Ministry of External Affairs for the year 2010-2011.

3. The Committee then adopted the report, subject to the following modifications/additions: -

I. In recommendation No. 2

(line 1 of para no. 10)

- (i) for the words ‘... extremely discontented’  
substitute the word ‘...regret’

(line 9 of para no. 10)

- (ii) after the words ‘current Five Year Plan’  
delete the words ‘and the outcome thereof’

II. In recommendation No. 8

(line 12 of para no. 13)

- (i) after the words ‘It seems that Ministry have...’  
delete the word ‘deliberately’

- (ii) at the end of para 13 add the following :

‘The Committee also want that services of Hindi interpreters should invariably be made available in all the Missions abroad.’

III. In recommendation No.11

(line 4 of para no. 16)

after the words ‘...there is still...’  
delete the word ‘an’

IV. In recommendation No. 12

(line 1 of para no. 19)

- (i) after the word ‘...satisfied’  
delete the words ‘at all’

(line 10 of para no. 19)

- (ii) for the word ‘stereo type’  
substitute the word ‘routine’

- (iii) at the end of para no. 19 add the words ‘within forty five days’

V. In recommendation No. 14

(line 8 of para no. 22)

for the words 'scenario and lack-lustre approach of the Government'

substitute the following:-

'situation and would like to have an explanation as to why such a situation has arisen and what steps are being taken to remedy the matter'

VI. In recommendation No. 16

(line 5 of para no. 25)

- (i) for the word 'anyone'  
substitute the word 'any'

(line 7 of para no. 25)

- (ii) after the words 'ITEC Programme and...'  
add the word 'that'

(line 8 of para no. 25)

- (iii) after the words '...among partner countries.'

insert the following:

'The Committee enquire as to whether all requests from partner countries have been honoured and whether there are areas of need which we have been unable to meet e.g. scholarships for medical education'

(line 11 of para no. 25)

- (iv) after the words '...should take all'  
add the word 'necessary'

VII. In recommendation No. 21

(line 1 of para no. 28)

- (i) for the words 'a long'  
substitute the word 'considerable'

(line 13, of para no. 28)

- (ii) delete the words 'the' and 'made'

VIII. In recommendation No.22 (para no. 31)

(line 1 of para no. 31)

- (i) (in the first line) delete the words 'to note'

(line 3 of para no. 31)

- (ii) for the words '...stereo type'  
substitute the word 'routine'

(line 6 of para no. 31)

- (iii) after the word 'However'  
delete the following:-

'the Committee do not hesitate to state that'

(line 2 from bottom of para no. 31)

- (iv) for the words '...them in their own'  
substitute the words '..them into their own'

IX. In recommendation No. 23

(lines 3 and 4 of para no. 34)

- (i) for the following

'The Committee observe that an idea was mooted in 2005 and academic activities have commenced recently on 26<sup>th</sup> August, 2010 from a rented building with 50 students only.'

substitute the following

'The Committee observe that this idea for establishment of the University was mooted in 2005 but academic activities could commence only recently on 26<sup>th</sup> August, 2010 from a rented building with 50 students'

(line 8 of para no. 34)

- (ii) after the words '....should be taken as...'  
insert the words 'as a matter of'

(lines 3 and 4 from bottom of para no. 34)

- (iii) for the words '....showcase the India's strength as a leader.'  
substitute the words '...showcase India's strengths.'

X. In recommendation No. 24

(line 4 of para no. 37)

- (i) for the word 'other'  
substitute the word 'all'

(line 5 of para no. 34)

- (ii) for the words 'viz. transfer of land and various...'  
substitute the word 'and'

(line 3 from bottom of para no. 37)

- (iii) for the word 'remind'  
substitute the word 'reiterate'

(line 3 and 4 from bottom of para no. 37)

- (iv) for the words '...should be evolved..'  
substitute '...should evolve..'

4. The Committee also authorized the Chairman to finalize the report in the light of the modifications suggested by the Members and consequential changes, if any, arising out of factual verification of the Report by the Ministry of External Affairs and to present the same to Parliament.

The Committee then adjourned.



## Appendix II

*(Vide Para 4 of Introduction of Report)*

### ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS CONTAINED IN THE FOURTH REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (15<sup>TH</sup> LOK SABHA)

- |       |   |                           |
|-------|---|---------------------------|
| (i)   | Total Number of Recommendations   | 26                        |
| (v)   | Recommendations/Observations, which have been accepted by the Government.   |                           |
|       | Recommendation Nos.1-2, 4-7, 9-11, 13, 15-17, 19-20, 22, 25 & 26  |                           |
|       |   | <b>Total-18</b>           |
|       |   | <b>Percentage: 69.23%</b> |
| (iii) | Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government replies.                             |                           |
|       | Recommendation Nos. 3 and 18  |                           |
|       |   | <b>Total-02</b>           |
|       |   | <b>Percentage: 7.69%</b>  |
| (v)   | Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of Government have not been accepted by the Committee and require reiteration. |                           |
|       | Recommendation No. 12, 14, 23 & 25  |                           |
|       |   | <b>Total- 04</b>          |
|       |   | <b>Percentage: 15.39%</b> |
| (vi)  | Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies of Government are still awaited.   |                           |
|       | Recommendation Nos. 8 & 21  |                           |
|       |   | <b>Total-02</b>           |
|       |   | <b>Percentage: 7.69%</b>  |