

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6656
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2013
SUPPORT/AID TO MALI
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India is a member of the Support and Follow up Group (SFG) for Mali;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether India has also promised \$ 1 million for upgradation of Malian army and another \$ 100 million for Mali's reconstruction and if so the details thereof;
- (d) whether the same approach was followed by India in the case of Syria and Libya; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) The Support and Follow up Group for Mali was set up under the aegis of the African Union and the United Nations, following a request from the African Union. The core members of the group are Mali's neighbouring countries and the concerned regional economic communities of the African Union, that is, Economic Community of West African States and the Community of the Sahel-Saharan States. India was invited to the meeting of this Support and Follow up Group, held in Brussels on February 5, 2013, in its capacity as an important partner of the African Union. India has a long standing development partnership with countries in Africa, focussed on capacity building and human resource development.

(c) to (e) India was invited to the Donors Conference on Mali, held in Addis Ababa on January 29, 2013. The Conference was organised by the African Union to mobilise support and resources for the Malian defence forces as well as for the African led international Support Mission on Mali. India announced a contribution of US\$ 1 million at this Conference to underline our strong affinity with countries in Africa as also India's support for restoration of Mali's territorial integrity. We also announced our readiness to support Mali's reconstruction through the resumption and strengthening of our development partnership and capacity building efforts after the stabilisation of the situation in Mali, which would include the implementation of a US\$ 100 million line of credit. The implementation of this line, which had been extended in January 2012, has remained in abeyance because of the crisis in Mali.

In the case of Mali, India supported the African Union initiative to strengthen the Malian Defence Force and Africa-Led Support Mission mandated by UNSC Resolution 2085. However, in the case of Libya, the UNSC resolution 1973, on which India abstained, did not authorise any such initiative on the part of the international community, as it called for imposition of no-fly zone over Libya. India has committed US\$ 3 million towards humanitarian assistance for the people of Libya. As far as Syria is concerned, no UN Security Council resolution has been adopted.