

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2194
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2013
VISITS BY FOREIGN DIGNITARIES
Sivakumar Alias J.K. Ritheesh Shri K.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the visits of the President/Prime Minister of foreign countries to India and vice versa during the last six months;
- (b) whether the Government has entered into any Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) with any country recently;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether our foreign policy has helped in having friendly relations with neighbouring countries; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) The required information is placed at Annexure "A".

(d) & (e) India's foreign policy attaches high priority to relations with the neighbouring countries and, has been instrumental in maintaining cordial and friendly relations, which are multifaceted, extending to political, economic, cultural and other ties. In furtherance of India's national interests, India has been extensively involved in developmental projects, including bilateral aid and assistance and capacity building programmes in the neighbourhood that have contributed to the strengthening of India's ties with the countries in the region. Both bilaterally and through SAARC, India is pursuing policies directed towards establishing networks of interconnectivity, trade and investments so that benefits of development are shared in the neighbourhood.

India's foreign policy towards its neighbouring countries is guided by the fundamental premise that a stable, prosperous, democratic and peaceful neighbourhood is in mutual interest of India and the countries in the region. The Government closely monitors developments in the region particularly those having a bearing on the country's interest and security and, takes appropriate policy decisions in this regard. Where outstanding issues exist, India is committed to resolving these through elaborate dialogue mechanisms with its neighbours as well as regular exchange of high level visits.