

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:184
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2009
COOPERATION WITH AFRICAN COUNTRIES
Reddy Shri Magunta Srinivasulu

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a need has been felt to inject fresh dynamism into India's cooperation with African countries like Namibia; and
(b) if so, the details of the agreements recently signed by India with these countries including Namibia?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA)

(a)& (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) & (B) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION 184 REGARDING "COOPERATION WITH AFRICAN COUNTRIES" FOR ANSWER ON 02.12.2009

India's relations with African countries including Namibia have always been marked by warm friendship and cooperation for mutual benefit. Our cooperation has been in keeping with the priorities set out by African countries in their developmental efforts. An impetus was given to our cooperation by organizing the first India-Africa Forum Summit in New Delhi on 8 and 9 April, 2008. At the Summit, the following important decisions were taken.

- (i) Duty Free Tariff Preferences (DFTP) for exports from Least Developed Countries of Africa;
(ii) Additional Lines of Credit amounting to \$5.4 billion, both bilaterally and to the Regional Economic Communities of Africa;
(iii) Grant in Aid in excess of \$500 million over the next 5-6 years for implementing projects in critical areas focusing on human resource development and capacity building;
(iv) Doubling of India's long-term scholarships for undergraduates, postgraduates and higher courses from the current 244 for Africa to 488 per year;
(v) Increasing the number of training slots under our technical assistance programmes from 1100 annually to 1600 every year for Africa; and
(vi) The establishment of an India-Africa Volunteer Corps relating to development work through identification of projects in the areas of public health, informal education and women's empowerment.

We are in the process of implementing the decisions of the Summit multilaterally as well as bilaterally. The Agreements and MoUs signed with various African countries in 2009 including Namibia were:

Benin:
Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations
India-Benin Joint Commission on Political, Economic, Scientific, Cultural & Technical Cooperation

Cape Verde:
Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations

Democratic Republic of the Congo:
Cultural Cooperation Agreement

Liberia:
Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations

Mali:
Agreement on Political, Economic, Scientific, Cultural & Technical Cooperation
Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations

Mauritius

- # MOU on setting up of Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) in Mauritius based on Indian PKI model;
- # Protocol on the Sale of Navigational Charts;
- # Agreement on Cooperation for the establishment of telemetry, tracking and tele-command station for satellites and launch vehicles and for cooperation in the fields of space research, science and applications;
- # MoU for the sharing of e-procurement platform of Government of Andhra Pradesh with Mauritius;
- # MoU on Plant Health Cooperation.

Namibia:

- # Agreement on Cooperation in Peaceful Uses of nuclear Energy;
- # Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Defence;
- # MoU on Cooperation in the field of Geology and Mineral Resources;
- # MoU on Exemption from Visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic and Official Passports and;
- # Country Agreement on Namibian accession to Pan-African e-Network Project.