

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3689
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2014
MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE TREATY
Anwar Shri Tariq

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the countries with whom Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties (MLATs) have been signed;
- (b) whether there is any proposal to sign the said treaty with Pakistan and other countries;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government is also considering to set up Joint Working Groups on counter-terrorism with other countries; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a): India has signed Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties in Criminal Matters with 38 countries as per the list attached at Annexure out of which 36 are in force.

(b)&(c): Yes Madam. In 2005 during the Joint Commission Meeting held in Islamabad, the then External Affairs Minister had expressed the need for MLAT with Pakistan following which the Indian Standard Draft was sent to Ministry of External Affairs for posing the same to Pakistan. This issue also came up during Home/Interior Secretary level talks held in Islamabad in May, 2012 when an Indian Standard Draft of the Treaty was handed over to Pakistan. It was agreed that Pakistan side would examine the Draft and revert with its comments. However, no specific response from Pakistan side has so far been received in the matter. So far as other countries are concerned, Oman is expected to sign MLAT in Criminal Matters with India in future.

(d)&(e): Yes Madam. A proposal for setting up a Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism with the Netherlands is under consideration by Ministry of External Affairs.