

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:593

ANSWERED ON:26.11.2014

INDO US TIES

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Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Prime Minister visited the USA recently and if so the details of bilateral discussions held, MoUs signed and areas identified for investment;
- (b) whether both the countries have decided to co-operate with each other in various areas including combating of terrorism;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the action plan chalked out/envisaged in this regard; and
- (d) the details of the fresh initiatives contemplated for achieving greater co-operation between India and the US in future?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) to (d) At the invitation of the US President Barack Obama, Prime Minister visited the United States from September 26-30, 2014, combining his bilateral visit to Washington D.C. with a visit to New York for the UN General Assembly. During his visit, Prime Minister held meetings with President Obama, members of the US Congress and political leaders, including from various States and cities in the US, and interacted with members of President Obama's Cabinet. He also met the leaders of the US commerce and industry, the American civil society and think-tanks, and the Indian-American community. A Vision Statement on the theme of 'Chalein Saath Saath: Forward Together We Go' and a Joint Statement, reflecting concrete ways to realize that vision, were issued during Prime Minister's visit.

The subject matter of bilateral discussions included trade and investment, energy and climate change, education and skill development, health, science and technology, defence, security and counter-terrorism.

To raise investment by institutional investors and corporate entities, India and the US agreed to establish an Investment Initiative with special focus on capital market development and financing of infrastructure. They also decided to establish an Infrastructure Collaboration Platform to enhance participation of US companies in infrastructure projects in India.

On counter-terrorism, both sides stressed the need for joint and concerted efforts, including the dismantling of safe havens for terrorist and criminal networks, to disrupt all financial and tactical support for networks such as Al Qaeda, Lashkar-e Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammad, the D-Company, and the Haqqanis. They aimed to prevent the spread of counterfeit currency and inhibit the use of cyberspace by terrorists, criminals, and those who use the internet for unlawful purposes, and to facilitate investigation of criminal and terrorist activities. President Obama pledged to help India counter the threat of improvised explosive devices with information and technology. The two leaders also agreed to intensify cooperation in maritime security to ensure freedom of navigation and unimpeded movement of lawful shipping and commercial activity, in accordance with accepted principles of international law.

Several new initiatives have been identified in areas such as energy, health, education, water and sanitation etc. during the visit. It was agreed that the US Export-Import Bank would make available up to US\$1 billion in financing to bolster India's efforts to transition to a low-carbon and climate-resilient energy economy. Both sides agreed to launch a new phase of Vaccine Action Program to develop affordable vaccines for dengue, malaria, and tuberculosis, and the establishment of an adjuvant development centre. India and the US agreed to initiate activities to increase capacity in cancer research and patient care delivery. It was also decided to establish the Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN). The US agreed to be the lead partner in developing Smart Cities in Ajmer, Vishakhapatnam and Allahabad. The US would also serve as knowledge partner to support the Prime Minister's 500 Cities National Urban Development Mission and Clean India Campaign.