

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:337
ANSWERED ON:04.02.2004
VISIT OF INDIAN DELEGATIONS ABROAD
NIVEDITA MANE;SADASHVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the Indian delegations who visited abroad in the last one month till date;
- (b) the agreement signed on the occasion including the terms of agreements;
- (c) if so, the details of discussions held and agreements signed on the occasion?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENTS REFERRED TO IN PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE ANSWER TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO 337 ANSWERED OF 4.2.2004

The following Indian delegations visited abroad in the last one month till date:

PAKISTAN:

(a) PM accompanied by External Affairs Minister and National Security Advisor visited Islamabad from 4-6, January, 2004 and participated in the 12th SAARC Summit.

(b) Following documents were signed during the 12th SAARC Summit:

(i) SAARC Social Charter

(ii) Agreement on South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA)

(iii) Additional Protocol to SAARC Convention on Suppression of Terrorism

A Joint Press Statement was issued on January 6, 2004 after the meeting between Prime Minister Vajpayee and President General Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan. The Joint Statement stated, Inter alia, that the two leaders welcomed the recent steps towards normalisation of relations and expressed the hope that the positive trends set by the CBMs would be consolidated. Prime Minister Vajpayee said that in order to take forward and sustain the dialogue process, violence, hostility and terrorism must be prevented. President Musharraf reassured Prime Minister Vajpayee that he will not permit any territory under Pakistan's control to be used to support terrorism in any manner. President Musharraf emphasised that a sustained and productive dialogue addressing all issues would lead to positive results, to carry the process of normalisation forward. The President of Pakistan and the Prime Minister of India agreed to commence the process of the Composite Dialogue in February 2004, and expressed confidence that the resumption of the Composite Dialogue will lead to peaceful settlement of all bilateral issues, including Jammu and Kashmir, to the satisfaction of both sides.

CHINA:

(a) & (b) India's Special Representative on the India-China Boundary Question and National Security Adviser Shri Brajesh Mishra led a delegation to China from 11-15 January, 2004 to hold the second meeting of the Special Representatives in Beijing. The meeting was held in a friendly and constructive atmosphere. The Special Representative agreed to meet again on mutually acceptable dates in New Delhi to be decided through diplomatic channels. No agreement was signed during the visit.

SAUDI ARABIA:

(a) & (b) Shri R.M. Abhyankar, Secretary(ANA), Ministry of External Affairs visited Saudi Arabia for inspection of Haj arrangements on January 22-23, 2004. No agreement was signed with any Saudi Authorities.

GUADALOUPE (FRANCE)

(a) & (b) Shri J.C. Sharma, Secretary (PCD), Ministry of External Affairs visited Guadeloupe, a French administered island in the Caribbean, from January 16-19, 2004 in connection with the celebration to mark 150th Anniversary of Indians arrival in the Island.

UNITED KINGDOM

(a) & (b) Shri Santosh Kumar, Dean (FSI), Ministry of External Affairs, visited London from January 27-31, 2004 to participate in the Workshop on e-learning for Diplomacy organised by the Centre for Political and Diplomatic Studies. No agreement was signed during the visit.

IRELAND

(a) & (b) Shri Shashank, Foreign Secretary visited Ireland from January 20-22, 2004. No agreement was signed during the visit.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

(a) & (b) Shri J.C. Sharma, Secretary (PCD), Ministry of External Affairs visited Trinidad & Tobago from January 20-22, 2004. No agreement was signed during the visit.

UNITED STATES

(a), (b), (c) and (d) EAM visited Washington DC during January 19-21, 2004 and had several meetings including with U.S. President George Bush, National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice and Secretary of State Colin Powell. The meetings provided an opportunity to discuss bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest including the Next Steps in Bilateral Strategic Partnership that were announced on January 12-13, 2004. No agreements were signed during the visit.