

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:53

ANSWERED ON:23.11.2005

BILATERAL TIES WITH AFGHANISTAN

Kushwaha Shri Narendra Kumar;Majhi Shri Parsuram;Munshiram Shri ;Patle Shri Shishupal Natthu;Rawat Shri Ashok Kumar;Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Prime Minister visited Afghanistan recently;
- (b) If so, the details of the agreements reached between the two countries;
- (c) Whether Afghanistan has given permission for the promotion of Indian goods there;
- (d) Whether the Government has provided financial assistance to Afghanistan;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the Government proposes to provide assistance to that country to counter terrorism and for security related works; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a)-(b) Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh paid a state visit to Kabul on August 28-29, 2005. During the visit, three documents were signed between Government of India and Afghanistan. These were: i) an MoU on Small Development Projects, ii) an Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Healthcare and Medicinal Science, iii) an MoU on Cooperation in the field of Agricultural Research and Education. A Joint Press Statement was released during the visit.

(c) Yes.

(d)-(e) Yes, Government of India has provided financial assistance to Afghanistan and India's present financial commitment towards reconstruction effort in Afghanistan so far is over US \$ 550 million. We are carrying out projects in virtually all parts of Afghanistan in partnership with the Afghan Government. India has undertaken projects in a wide range of sectors, including hydro-electricity, road construction, agriculture, industry, telecommunications, information & broadcasting, education and health, which were identified by the Afghan government as priority areas for development.

(f)-(g) Yes, in the Joint Statement of August 28, 2005, the Prime Minister of India and the President of Afghanistan condemned global terrorism as a threat to democracy and declared that there can be no compromise with those who resort to terrorism. They reiterated their commitment to work together to ensure that Afghanistan would never again become a safe haven for terrorism and extremism.