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Title: Need to strengthen bilateral relationship between India and Maldives.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (DHENKANAL): Bilateral relations between Indian and the Republic of Maldives have been friendly and close in strategic, economic and military cooperation. India contributed to maintaining security on the island nation and has forged an alliance with respect to its strategic interests in the Indian ocean. Rajeev ji had also helped their government overcome a coup some years ago.

Today, we stand alienated. Geography will not change. We support corporate entities that do not help us in the neighborhood. Indian High Commissions for being termed as a traitor and enemy of Maldives by their Presidential spokesperson is a matter of great concern. Such anti-India remarks by a key presidential aide are against diplomatic protocol.

India should not stop giving assistance. The matter should be diluted and our unfriendly neighbours to the North must not be allowed to get entry into Maldives. Hence, I urge the Government to take appropriate action as they may deem necessary in this regard.