



## Ministry of External Affairs

Government of India

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# Q NO.192 BILATERAL TALKS BETWEEN INDIA AND FRANCE

February 25, 2016

RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.192  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.02.2016

## BILATERAL TALKS BETWEEN INDIA AND FRANCE

192. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether bilateral talks were held between India and France during the recent visit of French President, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the mutual benefits expected for India and France due to the bilateral talks?

## ANSWER

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

(a) Yes. Hon'ble Prime Minister held extensive discussions with the French President H.E. Mr Francois Hollande during the latter's State Visit to India from 24-26 January 2016. The discussions focused on strengthening the bilateral Strategic Partnership through enhanced cooperation in defence, civil nuclear energy, space, counter terrorism, maritime security and deeper collaboration in priority areas such as trade & investment, sustainable urban development, Smart Cities, renewable energy and railways. The two Leaders also discussed cooperation in multilateral fora and regional and international issues of mutual interest.

(b) The Strategic Partnership was upgraded during the visit with intensified collaboration in defence, civil nuclear and space cooperation and issuance of a separate joint statement on counter-terrorism. 32 Agreements were concluded, including 18 Government to Government Agreements in priority sectors like Smart Cities, Urban Development, Renewable Energy, Railways and "Make in India", making France a key partner in India's flagship development initiatives. The leaders jointly inaugurated the Interim Secretariat of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) in Gurgaon with France committing Euros 300 million to future ISA projects. The visit also saw a categorical reaffirmation of French support for India's membership of an expanded United Nations Security Council and India's accession to multilateral export control regimes, including the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) in 2016.

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