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GOODWILL DELEGATIONS

In the continuously and rapidly changing international scenario, the need to project and propagate our national policies, programmes and achievements, problems in the proper perspective among various countries as well as understanding their points of view has been felt for a long time. The parliamentarians of a country play a significant role in determining the policy of the country and strengthening of relations with other countries. More particularly, it is indeed useful and necessary for a democratic and developing country like India to select some Members of Parliament and distinguished personalities and utilise their services in projecting our policies, programmes and achievements in different fields with their counterparts and other opinion makers in other countries and secure their support in favour of India.

With these objectives in view, the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs sponsors Government Goodwill Delegations of Members of Parliament to other countries and receives similar Government sponsored delegations of parliamentarians under the exchange programme from other countries through the Ministry of External Affairs.

The check lists of procedure followed for Goodwill Delegations sent Abroad is at **Annex XVII-A** and for receiving a Foreign Delegation in India is at **Annex XVII-B**.

The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs assists the other Ministries/Departments on various occasions viz., Government functions/occasions where MPs are invited.

The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs assists the Members of Parliament, on request, in coordination with Ministry of External Affairs/our Missions abroad in respect of extending courtesies, during their private visits abroad.

Protocol services are rendered and usual courtesies are extended to various foreign Parliamentary Delegations visiting India under the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), etc., for calling on Minister/Ministers of State for Parliamentary Affairs and exchanging views on the functioning of Parliament and other matters of mutual interest. Mementos/gifts are presented to the foreign delegates by the Hon'ble Minister/Ministers of State for Parliamentary Affairs.

Foreign Parliamentary Delegations visiting India under Inter-Parliamentary Union, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, etc. call on Minister/Ministers of State for Parliamentary Affairs for exchange of views on functioning of Parliament and other matters of mutual interest. In this connection, following arrangements are made by this Ministry :

- (i) To collect details regarding the composition of the delegation along with the bio-data of the delegates and facts sheets about the country of the delegation;
- (ii) To collect material from the Ministry of External Affairs regarding the Talking Points for the Minister during his meeting with the delegation;
- (iii) To prepare a note on the functioning of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs;
- (iv) To prepare the folders containing the material collected/prepared for Minister/Ministers of State, Secretary, Joint Secretary and other concerned senior officers;
- (v) To arrange for briefing of the Minister and to invite an officer of Ministry of External Affairs for briefing the meeting;
- (vi) Procurement and packing of gifts to be presented to the delegates;
- (vii) Arrangement of bouquets, if desired by the Minister; and
- (viii) Arrangement of passes for the delegates, officers of the Ministry of External Affairs and their vehicles for entry in Parliament House premises.