

**INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY GROUP**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2016 – 2017**

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**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

**August, 2017**

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# INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

## ANNUAL REPORT (2016-2017)

### INTRODUCTORY

The Executive Committee of the Indian Parliamentary Group (hereinafter referred to as 'the Group') has great pleasure in presenting their Annual Report for the period 1 April, 2016 - 31 March, 2017. The Report is divided into the following three parts:-

- Part I**        **Inter-Parliamentary Union**
- Part II**       **Commonwealth Parliamentary Association**
- Part III**      **Bilateral Exchanges and other events**

#### 2.    **Composition of the Executive Committee**

**President:**            Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, Speaker, Lok Sabha continued as ex-officio President of the Group for the year.

**Vice-Presidents:**    Dr. M. Thambi Durai, Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha continued as ex-officio Vice-President of the Group for the year.

Prof. P.J. Kurien, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha continued as ex-officio Vice President of the Group for the year.

**Secretary-General:** Shri Anoop Mishra, Secretary-General, Lok Sabha continued as ex-officio Secretary-General of the Group for the year.

### **3. Treasurer and Members of the Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee of the Group, was constituted on 15 March, 2017 by the President of the Group. The composition is as under:

#### **TREASURER**

Shri Om Birla, MP

#### **MEMBERS**

1. Shri Ramesh Bais, MP
2. Smt. Bijoya Chakravarty, MP
3. Shri N.K. Premachandran, MP
4. Shri B. J. Panda, MP
5. Shri Rakesh Singh, MP
6. Smt. Supriya S. Sule, MP
7. Dr. Shashi Tharoor, MP
8. Shri Konakalla Narayana Rao, MP
9. Dr. Karan Singh, MP (RS)
10. Shri Sitaram Yechury, MP (RS)
11. Shri Narayan Lal Panchariya, MP (RS)
12. Shri Ranvijay Singh Judev, MP (RS)
13. Dr. Vinay P. Sahasrabuddhe, MP (RS)

#### **ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

14. Prof. (Smt.) Rita Verma, ex-MP
15. Smt. Bhavna Kardam Dave, ex-MP
16. Shri Pradeep Gandhi, ex-MP

#### **SECRETARY-GENERAL**

Shri Anoop Mishra,  
Secretary-General, Lok Sabha

#### **INVITEE**

Shri S. K. Sheriff  
Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha

**4. Auditor** The Pay & Accounts Officer, Lok Sabha continued as Auditor of the Group for the year 2016-2017.

## PART- I

### INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION RELATED ACTIVITIES

#### **REPRESENTATION OF INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY GROUP IN THE STATUTORY ASSEMBLIES OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION AND OTHER SPECIALIZED MEETINGS**

##### **A. STATUTORY ASSEMBLIES HELD UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU):**

**The 135<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union held in Geneva (Switzerland) from 21 to 27 October, 2016.**

An Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha attended 135<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union held in Geneva (Switzerland) from 21 to 27 October, 2016. The members of the delegation were:-

Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha	- Leader of the Delegation
Shri N. K. Premachandran, MP	- Lok Sabha (RSP)
Dr. (Prof.) Kirit Premjibhai Solanki, MP	- Lok Sabha (BJP)
Shri Anil Yeshwant Desai, MP	- Rajya Sabha (SHIV SENA)
Shri Vivek Gupta, MP	- Rajya Sabha (AITC)
Smt. Wansuk Syiem, MP	- Rajya Sabha (INC)
Shri Nagendra Singh, MP	- Lok Sabha (BJP)
Shri Raj Kumar Singh, MP	- Lok Sabha (BJP)
Smt. R. Vanaroja, MP	- Lok Sabha (AIADMK)
Shri Anoop Mishra, Secretary General, Lok Sabha	- ASGP Member
Shri Shumsher K. Sheriff Secretary General, Rajya Sabha	- ASGP Executive Member
Shri Cyril John, Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat	- Secretary to Delegation



1. All members of the delegation attended the Assembly. Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha participated in the General debate on the overall theme of '*Human rights abuses as precursors of conflict: Parliaments as early responders*'. The Assembly adopted a declaration on the same.
2. The Meetings of the Governing Council held during the Assembly were attended by Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Anil Yeshwant Desai, MP; Shri Nagendra Singh, MP; Shri Raj Kumar Singh, MP; Smt. R. Vanaroja, MP; and Smt. Wansuk Syiem, MP had attended the meetings of the Governing Council.
3. Members of the Delegation participated in the deliberations of the meetings of the Four Standing Committees of IPU held during the Assembly.
4. The meeting of the Asia-Pacific Geo Political Group (APG) of IPU held during the Assembly was attended by all the members of the delegation.
5. Shri Anoop Mishra, Secretary-General, Lok Sabha and Shri Shumsher K. Sheriff, Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha attended the Meetings of Association of Secretaries General of Parliament (ASGP).

**B. OTHER SPECIALIZED MEETINGS:**

**1. 9th Asia Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting (ASEP 9) in Ulaanbaatar on 21-22 April, 2016**

Shri Rajendra Agarwal, MP (Lok Sabha) and Shri Shantaram Naik, MP (Rajya Sabha) represented India in the 9<sup>th</sup> Asia - Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting (ASEP 9) on the theme "The Role of Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership in ASEM" held at Ulaanbaatar on 21 -22 April, 2016.

## **2. Annual 2016 Session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO held in Geneva, Switzerland on 13 and 14 June, 2016**

Shri Anurag Singh Thakur, MP, Lok Sabha and the Member of the Steering Committee of Parliamentary Conference on the WTO, Dr. Kirit Jayantilal Somaiya, MP Lok Sabha and Shri Pavan Kumar Verma, MP, Rajya Sabha participated in the event. Smt. Kalpana Sharma, Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat was the Secretary to the Delegation.

Shri Anurag Singh Thakur, MP made a presentation on the theme "Making trade work for development after Nairobi". Discussions were also held on the following subject items of the Agenda:

- (i) WTO in the area of mega-regional trade agreements;
- (ii) Post-Nairobi work: reflections on the future of the WTO;
- (iii) Trade as vehicle of social progress: The gender perspective;
- (iv) Best practices: Trade-related capacity building; and
- (v) The riddles of the WTO dispute settlement system.

In the concluding Session of the Annual meet the Participants adopted an outcome document.

## **3. World e-Parliament Conference held from 28 to 30 June 2016 in Valparaiso, Chile**

Dr. Sunil Baliram Gaikwad, MP, Lok Sabha participated in the World e-Parliament Conference held from 28 to 30 June 2016 in Valparaiso, Chile. Smt. Sushma Rungta, Director, Lok Sabha Secretariat was the Secretary to the Delegation.

The World e – Parliament Conference during its sessions exchanged good practices in the area of information and communication technology (ICT) and adopted the Report on "World e-Parliament - 2016".

**4. First SAARC Young Parliamentarians' Conference on Peace and Harmony for Development held in Islamabad, Pakistan from 16-18 August, 2016**

The First SAARC Young Parliamentarians' Conference on Peace and Harmony for Development held in Islamabad, Pakistan from 16 to 18 August, 2016 was attended by Shri Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo, MP, Lok Sabha and Leader of the Delegation; Shri Alok Tiwari, MP, Rajya Sabha; Shri Devji Mansingram Patel, MP, Lok Sabha. Shri Devender Singh, Additional Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat was the Secretary to the Delegation. The Conference *inter alia* discussed the following themes:

- (i) Inter Parliamentary Linkages,
- (ii) SAARC Sustainable Development Goals-Tackling Inequality to Encourage emancipation,
- (iii) Towards Regional Integration-ideas for future, and
- (iv) SAARC Youth Charter-Challenges and Success Stories.

**5. Meeting of Speakers and Presiding Officers of Parliaments of BRICS Parliamentary Forum held on 23 October 2016, in Geneva, Switzerland.**

The meeting of Speakers and Presiding Officers of Parliaments of BRICS Parliamentary Forum held at Geneva, Switzerland on 23 October, 2016 hosted by Parliament of India was attended by Speakers and Presiding Officers of Parliaments and Clerks of the House / Secretaries-General of Parliament and their representatives from BRICS countries, namely, Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa. The theme of the meeting was '*BRICS Parliamentary Cooperation on the implementation of SDGs*'.

Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha and Chairperson, BRICS Parliamentary Forum; Shri Anoop Mishra, Secretary-General, Lok Sabha and Shri Shumsher K. Sheriff, Secretary General, Rajya Sabha attended the meeting and Shri Cyril John, Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat was the Secretary to the delegation.

**6. The 18<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Asia Pacific Parliamentarians' Conference on Environment and Development (APPCED) held in Seoul, Republic of Korea from 10 -12 November, 2016.**

Shri Parvesh Sahib Singh, MP, Lok Sabha attended the 18<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Asia Pacific Parliamentarians' Conference on Environment and Development (APPCED) held at Seoul, Republic of Korea from 10-12 November, 2016.

The theme of the Conference was '*UN-SDGs and International Development*'.

**7. Global Appeal 2017 to end Stigma and Discrimination Against Persons affected by Leprosy held in Delhi on 30 January, 2017.**

Global Appeal 2017 to end Stigma and Discrimination Against Persons affected by Leprosy was launched in Delhi on 30 January, 2017. Dr. C. P. Thakur, MP, Rajya Sabha and Leader of the Delegation; Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal, MP, Lok Sabha; Dr. K. Kamaraj, MP, Lok Sabha attended the programme. Smt. Kalpana Sharma, Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat was the Secretary to the delegation.

**8. South Asian Speakers' Summit on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals held in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, 18-20 February 2017 India.**

The South Asian Speakers' Summit on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals was organized at Indore on 18–19 February 2017 by Parliament of India and Inter-Parliamentary Union to identify specific actions that will advance the integration of the SDGs in the region. The Speakers of the national Parliaments of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka deliberated on the theme *Strengthening regional cooperation and resources for the SDGs*. The 'Indore Declaration' was adopted during the Summit.

**9. Meeting of 38<sup>th</sup> Session of the Steering Committee of Parliamentary Conference on WTO held in Brussels on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017.**

Shri Anurag Singh Thakur, MP, Lok Sabha, Hon'ble Chairman, Standing Committee of Information Technology and the Member of the Steering Committee of Parliamentary Conference on the WTO participated in the Meeting of 38<sup>th</sup> Session of the Steering Committee of Parliamentary Conference on WTO.

2. The theme for discussions during the above events were:-

- (i) Update on Recent Developments at the WTO;
- (ii) Trade as a Tool to Promote Human Rights; and
- (iii) The Impact of the United States 2016 Presidential Election on the WTO.

**10. Meeting of Standing Committee of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) held in Islamabad, Pakistan, from 13-17 March, 2017.**

The Meeting of Standing Committee of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) held in Islamabad, Pakistan, from 13-17 March, 2017 was attended by Dr. Shashi Tharoor, MP, Lok Sabha; Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi, MP, Lok Sabha; and Shri Swapan Dasgupta, MP, Rajya Sabha. Dr. Shashi Tharoor was the Leader of the Delegation.

During the event, following resolutions were *inter alia* adopted:

- (i) United Front Against Terrorism and Violent Extremism.
- (ii) Building Prosperity in Asia Through Friendship and Cooperation.
- (iii) Asian Parliaments and Governments Together for Prosperity in Asia.
- (iv) Significant Political Developments in Asia.

**C. Contribution to the Central Funds of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)**

Indian Parliamentary Group's Annual Contribution of CHF 97,000 (Rs. 67,90,000/-) to the Central Fund of the Inter-Parliamentary Union for the year 2016 was paid out of the grant sanctioned by Parliament. An amount of CHF 550 (Rs. 38,500/-) was contributed to ASGP.

## **PART- II**

### **COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION (CPA) RELATED EVENTS**

India is a member of the Commonwealth parliamentary Association (CPA). The Lok Sabha Secretariat provides Secretariat assistance to the India Union Branch of the CPA and the CPA India Region since its creation in September, 2004. The India Union Branch of the CPA entered in Sixty Eighth Year in 2016-17. The following events took place during the period under review.

#### **1. THE CPA MID-YEAR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING IN LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM FROM 27 TO 30 APRIL, 2016**

The CPA Mid-Year Executive Committee Meeting was held in London, United Kingdom from 27 to 30 April, 2016.

The following three Members of the Executive Committee from CPA India Region, attended the Meeting as Regional Representatives:-

- (i) Shri P.P. Chaudhary, MP, (Lok Sabha);
- (ii) Dr. Charnjit Singh Atwal, Speaker, Punjab Vidhan Sabha; and
- (iii) Dr. Sitasharan Sharma, Speaker, Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly.

#### **2. THE 13<sup>TH</sup> CPA CANADIAN PARLIAMENTARY SEMINAR IN OTTAWA FROM 29 MAY TO 4 JUNE, 2016**

The Canada CPA Branch co-hosts the Canadian Parliamentary Seminar with the CPA Secretariat on annual basis. The Seminar is designed to meet the needs of newly elected members and / or backbench parliamentarians. The 13<sup>th</sup> CPA Canadian Parliamentary Seminar was held in Ottawa from 29 May to 4 June, 2016. The theme of the Seminar was “Strengthening Democracy and the role of Parliamentarians: Challenges and Solutions.”

Smt. Krishna Raj, MP, (LS) attended the Seminar from CPA India Union Branch.

The Seminar held discussion on the following topics:

- (i) The Commonwealth and the Role of the CPA;
- (ii) Overview of the Role and Operation of the Canadian Parliament;
- (iii) Parliamentary Committees: What Works And What Doesn't;
- (iv) Financing Elections;
- (v) The Parliamentary Presence of Political Parties: The Role of Party Caucuses;
- (vi) How an M.P.'s Office Works;
- (vii) Influencing Governments and Regulating Influence: Parliament and Lobbyists; and
- (viii) Comparing Election Media Coverage Across the Commonwealth.

### **3. THE 27<sup>TH</sup> COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY SEMINAR IN QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA FROM 5 TO 11 JUNE, 2016**

The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Commonwealth Parliamentary Seminar was held in Queensland, Australia from 5 to 11 June, 2016. The Seminar was attended by delegates from across all nine CPA Regions.

Smt. Riti Pathak, MP (Lok Sabha) attended the Seminar from CPA India Union Branch.

The Seminar held discussion on the following topics:

- (i) The Evolution of the Commonwealth and the Role of the CPA;
- (ii) The Evolution of Parliamentary Democracy and the Political Scene in Australia;
- (iii) The Role of the Speaker and the Clerk of Parliament;
- (iv) The Member of Parliament, the Party and Policy;
- (v) Parliamentary Ethics, Transparency and Accountability 'The Trust Agenda';

- (vi) Parliamentary Committees and the Importance of Scrutiny;
- (vii) Parliament and the Economy;
- (viii) Parliament, Gender and Human Rights;
- (ix) Parliamentarians' Role in Tackling Domestic Violence;
- (x) Parliament, the Member and the Media;
- (xi) The Parliamentarian's Role in Implementing Sustainable Development Goals; and
- (xii) Relationship between Parliament, the Judiciary and the Executive.

The Member has participated in the sessions on the following topics:

- (i) Parliamentary Ethics, Transparency and Accountability 'The Trust Agenda';
- (ii) Parliament, Gender and Human Rights; and
- (iii) Parliamentarians' Role in Tackling Domestic Violence.

#### **4. THE 6<sup>TH</sup> WESTMINSTER WORKSHOP: PARLIAMENTARY FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT OF AID EFFECTIVENESS IN HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT IN LONDON UK FROM 4 TO 7 JULY, 2016**

The 6<sup>th</sup> Westminster Workshop: Parliamentary Financial Oversight of Aid Effectiveness Workshop was held in London, UK from 4 to 7 July, 2016.

Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, MP (Lok Sabha) and Shri A.P. Jithender Reddy, MP (Lok Sabha) attended the Workshop from CPA India Union Branch.

The Workshop held discussion on the following sessions:

- (i) Effective Oversight of Development Finance – What Role for Parliament?;
- (ii) Post-2015 Aid Architecture – The Complex Age of Choice?;
- (iii) Country Development Strategy Planning – Opportunities and Challenges for Parliaments;
- (iv) The Role of Parliaments in Aid Oversight: Donor Parliament Perspective;



- (v) Anti-Corruption Strategies in Aid;
- (vi) Aid on Budget and Legislative Budget Oversight;
- (vii) Case Studies – What Does Effective Budgeting Look Like?;
- (viii) The role of Parliamentary Budget Offices (PBOs) and Independent Fiscal Institutions (IFIs);
- (ix) Strengthening Peer-to-Peer Collaboration of Aid Effectiveness;
- (x) What Constitutes an Effective Parliamentary Committee?;
- (x)(a) The Role of PACs in the Oversight of Responses to National Crises;
- (xi) Holding a Committee Enquiry – How to Work with Reluctant Witnesses?;
- (xi)(a) Westminster-style PAC Hearing Exercise;
- (xii) Using financial information to improve scrutiny;
- (xii)(a) Westminster-style PAC hearing feedback session;
- (xiii) Westminster-style Committee Hearing Exercise;
- (xiii)(a) The Role of PACs in Helping Governments Better Understand Emerging Risk;
- (xiv) Westminster-style committee hearing feedback session;
- (xv) Good Practice Standards for PACs– CAPAC Working Group Consultation;
- (xvi) Towards Aid Transparency;
- (xvii) Unlocking the Power of Data for Sustainable Development;
- (xviii) The Evolving Mechanisms for Effective Aid Scrutiny: ICAI Case Study; and
- (xix) Multi-stakeholder Partnerships for Effective Development Cooperation.

Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, MP (Lok Sabha) led the discussion on the subject **“The Role of PACs in Helping Governments Better Understand Emerging Risk.”**

## **5. THE 62<sup>ND</sup> COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE IN LONDON, UK FROM 11 TO 17 DECEMBER, 2016**

The 62<sup>nd</sup> Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference was held in London from 11 to 17 December, 2016. An Indian Parliamentary Delegation, led by Shri Gaurishankar Agrawal, Speaker, Chattisgarh Vidhan Sabha, attended the Conference. The Delegation comprised of Shri Bishnu Pada Ray, MP (Lok Sabha), Dr. (Smt.) Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, MP (Lok Sabha) and Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Roy, MP (Rajya Sabha) from CPA India Union Branch and the following Speakers from State CPA Branches in India:

- (i) Dr. Kodela Siva Prasad Rao, Speaker, Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly;
- (ii) Shri Er. Tenzing Norbu Thongdok, Speaker, Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly;
- (iii) Shri Ranjeet Kumar Dass, Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly;
- (iv) Shri Vijay Kumar Choudhary, Speaker, Bihar Vidhan Sabha;
- (v) Shri Gaurishankar Agrawal, Speaker, Chhattisgarh Vidhan Sabha;
- (vi) Shri Ram Niwas Goel, Speaker, Delhi Vidhan Sabha;
- (vii) Shri Shri Ramanlal Ishvarlal Vora, Speaker, Gujarat Legislative Assembly;
- (viii) Shri Kanwar Pal, Speaker, Haryana Vidhan Sabha;
- (ix) Shri Kavinder Gupta, Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly;
- (x) Shri Dinesh Oraon, Speaker, Jharkhand Vidhan Sabha;
- (xi) Shri K.B. Kollivad, Speaker, Karnataka Legislative Assembly;
- (xii) Shri P. Sreeramakrishnan, Speaker, Kerala Legislative Assembly;
- (xiii) Shri Th. Lokeshwar Singh, Speaker, Manipur Legislative Assembly;
- (xiv) Shri Abu Taher Mondal, Speaker, Meghalaya Legislative Assembly;
- (xv) Shri Hiphei, Speaker, Mizoram Legislative Assembly;

- (xvi) Shri Chotisuh Sazo, Speaker, Nagaland Legislative Assembly;
- (xvii) Shri Niranjan Pujari, Speaker, Odisha Legislative Assembly;
- (xviii) Shri Vaithilingam, Speaker, Puducherry Legislative Assembly;
- (xix) Shri Sonam Gyatso Lepcha, Deputy Speaker, Sikkim Legislative Assembly; and
- (xx) Shri Mata Prasad Pandey, Speaker, Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha.

Shri Madan Rathore, Deputy Chief Whip, Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha attended the Conference in place of the Speaker, Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha.

Dr. (Smt.) Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, MP (Lok Sabha) from CPA India Union Branch and Smt. Santosh Yadav, Deputy Speaker, Haryana Vidhan Sabha from CPA State Branch attended the CWP Conference on 14 December, 2016.

Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Roy, MP (Rajya Sabha), as an alternate to *Shri Feroze Varun Gandhi, MP (Lok Sabha)*; Shri Gaurishankar Agrawal, Speaker, Chhattisgarh Vidhan Sabha as an alternate to *Dr. Sitasaran Sharma, Speaker, Madhya Pradesh Vidhan Sabha* and Shri Kavinder Gupta, Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly attended the meeting of the New Executive Committee of CPA.

During the Conference, the following topics were discussed in Workshops:

- (i) There is a role for the Commonwealth in fostering freedom of religion or belief (conducted as a debate);
- (ii) Ending violence against women and girls: The impact of social media and the internet in perpetrating violence (Gender Topic);
- (iii) The role of Parliamentarians in implementing and monitoring policies relevant to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- (iv) The role of the Commonwealth in supporting the outcomes of the COP21 Paris Agreement on Climate Change (Small Branches Topic);
- (v) The radicalisation of young people and how we are dealing with this challenge throughout the Commonwealth; and
- (vi) The media plays a large role in public mistrust of Parliamentarians (conducted as a debate).

Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Roy, MP (RS) was the Lead Speaker on the topic “The media plays a large role in promoting public mistrust of Parliamentarians” (Workshop ‘F’) and Shri Gaurishankar Agrawal, Speaker, Chhattisgarh Vidhan Sabha was the Lead Speaker on the topic “The role of Parliamentarians in implementing and monitoring policies relevant to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)” (Workshop ‘C’).

Shri Bishnu Pada Ray, MP (Lok Sabha) participated in Workshops ‘A’ & ‘E’ on the topics “There is a role for the Commonwealth in fostering freedom of religion or belief” and “The radicalization of young people and how we are dealing with this challenge throughout the Commonwealth” respectively. Dr. (Smt.) Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, MP (Lok Sabha) participated in the Workshop ‘C’ & ‘D’ on the topic “The role of Parliamentarians in implementing and monitoring policies relevant to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)” and “Ending violence against women and girls: The impact of social media and the internet in perpetrating violence” respectively.

During the Business Meeting of CWP, there was an election for the post of Chairperson of CWP Steering Committee for the term 2016-2019. Hon’ble Noraini Binti Ahmad, MP, Malaysia was elected in the election.

## **6. MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE CONFERENCE OF SPEAKERS AND PRESIDING OFFICERS OF THE COMMONWEALTH (CSPOC) IN LONDON FROM 10 TO 14 JANUARY, 2017**

The Meeting of the Standing Committee of the CSPOC was held in London from 10 to 14 January, 2017. Hon’ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, accompanied by Secretary General, Lok Sabha attended the meeting.

Hon’ble Speaker, Lok Sabha suggested the following two topics for consideration of the Standing Committee of the CSPOC for inclusion in the Agenda Topics of the next CSPOC scheduled to be held in The Seychelles in January, 2018:

- (i) Strengthening Parliament as an Institution of Accountability; and
- (ii) Strengthening Parliamentary Research for Effective Legislative Functioning.

Both the topics were approved for inclusion in the Agenda of next CSPO Conference.

## **7. THE COMMONWEALTH WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS (CWP) WORKING GROUP AT WILTON PARK, UNITED KINGDOM FROM 24 TO 27 FEBRUARY, 2017**

Smt. Meenakashi, Lekhi, MP (Lok Sabha) and Member of CWP Steering Committee (in CWP International) from CPA India Region and Smt. Kavitha Kalvakuntla, MP (Lok Sabha) attended the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Working Group at Wilton Park, United Kingdom from 24 to 27 February, 2017 from CPA India Union Branch (Parliament of India).

The Conference held discussion on the following topics:

- (i) Female representation in parliament – overcoming the challenges;
- (ii) Break out groups: strategies to increase female representation in parliament and how to replicate good practice;
- (iii) Best practice: lessons to learn, and how to share them;
- (iv) Regional perspectives and the way forward;
- (v) Establishing the CWP's gender policy priorities and how to achieve them?;
- (vi) Break out groups: How the CWP can best address key gender Priorities; and
- (vii) Strengthening networks and sharing knowledge: lessons learned.

Smt. Meenakashi, Lekhi, MP (Lok Sabha) was the Lead Speaker on the topic "Female Representation in Parliament- Overcoming the Challenges."

## **ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION**

The annual contribution of the India Branch of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association for the year 2016-17 to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association was pounds 32,387, equivalent to Rs. 26,71,836/- and paid out of the grant sanctioned by Parliament.

## PART – III

### **BILATERAL EXCHANGES AND OTHER EVENTS**

#### **I FOREIGN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS VISITING INDIA**

- 1. REPUBLIC OF BELARUS:** A 7-member Parliamentary Delegation led by H.E. Mikhail Myasnikovich, Chairman of the Council of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus visited India from 10 to 14 May, 2016.

On Wednesday, 11 May, 2016 the Delegation witnessed the proceedings of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha from the 'Special Box'. On the same day they called on Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Hon'ble President of India and Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari, Hon'ble Vice President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha. Later in the evening a Banquet was hosted by Hon'ble Speaker in honour of the Delegation.

The Delegation visited Nagpur on 13 May, 2016.

- 2. VIETNAM:** A 12-member Parliamentary Delegation led by H.E. Mrs. Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan, President of the National Assembly of Vietnam visited India from 8 to 11 December, 2016.

On Friday, 9 December, 2016 the Delegation witnessed the proceedings of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha from the 'Special Box'. On the same day they called on Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari, Hon'ble Vice President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha; Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India; and also had a meeting with Shri Sitaram Yechury, MP & General-Secretary, CPI (M). In the evening the Delegation called on Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha. A cooperation Agreement between Indian and Vietnamese Parliament was signed by Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha and the President of the National Assembly of Vietnam. Three MoU were also signed between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. A dinner was hosted by Hon'ble Speaker in honour of the Delegation.

On Saturday, 10 December, 2016 the Delegation called on Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Hon'ble President of India and also met Smt. Sonia Gandhi, MP & Chairperson, UPA and Shri S.S. Reddy, MP & General-Secretary, CPI.

The Delegation also visited Bodhgaya on 11 December, 2017.

3. **NAMIBIA:** A 6-member Parliamentary Delegation led by Hon. Prof. Peter H. Katjavivi, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Parliament of Namibia visited India from 27 to 31 March, 2017.

On Monday, 27 March, 2017, the Delegation called on Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha. Later in the evening, a banquet was hosted by Hon'ble Speaker in honour of the Delegation.

On Tuesday, 28 March, 2017, the Delegation witnessed the proceedings of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha from the 'Special Box'. On the same day they called on Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Hon'ble President of India and Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari, Hon'ble Vice President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha.

The Delegation also visited Agra on 30 March, 2017.

## **II INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION VISITING ABROAD**

1. **MONGOLIA:** An 8-member Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan visited Mongolia from 19 to 21 April, 2016 under bilateral exchange. The other Members of the Delegation were Shri Rajendra Agarwal, MP, Shri Shantaram Naik, MP, Shri Kishan Chand Tyagi, MP, Smt. Renuka Butta, MP, Dr. Heena Vijaykumar Gavit, MP, and Shri Anoop Mishra, Secretary General, Lok Sabha. Shri Cyril John, Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat was Secretary to the Delegation.

2. **NEW ZEALAND:** A 11-member Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan visited New Zealand from 17 to 22 September, 2016 under bilateral exchange. The other Members of the Delegation were Shri Prem Chand Gupta, MP, Shri Prem Singh Chandumajra, MP, Shri Deepender Singh Hooda, MP, Shri C.R. Patil, MP Smt. Darshana Vikram Jardosh, MP, Shri Padmakar Alias Anil Gulabrao Shirole, MP, Shri Ranvijay Singh Judev, MP and Shri Vivek K. Tankha, MP and Shri Anoop Mishra, Secretary General, Lok Sabha. Shri Cyril John, Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat was Secretary to the Delegation.
3. **REPUBLIC OF KOREA:** A 8-member Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan visited the Republic of Korea from 27 September to 2 October, 2016 under bilateral exchange. The other Members of the Delegation were: Shri Raosaheb Patil Danve, MP, Shri Tathagata Satpathy, MP, Shri D. Raja, MP, Shri Daddan Mishra, MP and Smt. Santosh Ahlawat, MP all Members of Parliament and Shri Anoop Mishra, Secretary General, Lok Sabha. Shri Cyril John, Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat was Secretary to the Delegation.

### **III VISIT OF FOREIGN DIGNITARIES TO PARLIAMENT HOUSE COMPLEX / CALLS ON**

- Republic of Korea:** H.E. Mr. Cho Hyun, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea called on Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha on 9 September, 2016.
- IPU :** H.E. Mr. Saber Chowdhury, President, IPU called on Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha on 30 January, 2017 at 20, Akbar Road.
- Republic of Korea:** Mr. Baek Seung Joo, Korean Congressman called on Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha on 31 January, 2017 at 20, Akbar Road.
- Mexico :** Senator Teofilo Torres Corzo, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Asia-Pacific Region of the House of Senators of Mexican Parliament called on Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha on 15 March, 2017 in Parliament House.



**IV FUNCTIONS / CONFERENCES HELD UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY GROUP AND FLORAL TRIBUTES TO NATIONAL LEADERS**

**FLORAL TRIBUTES TO NATIONAL LEADERS**

On the occasion of the Birth Anniversaries of the following National Leaders, functions were held under the auspices of the Group on the dates shown against each in the Central Hall, Parliament House, where their portraits are put up:-

(1)	Babu Jagjivan Ram	5 April, 2016
(2)	Dr. B.R. Ambedkar	14 April, 2016
(3)	Pt. Motilal Nehru	6 May, 2016
(4)	Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore	9 May, 2016
(5)	Swatantryaveer Vinayak Damodar Savarkar	28 May, 2016
(6)	Shri K.S. Hegde	11 June, 2016
(7)	Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee	6 July, 2016
(8)	Shri Bal Gangadhar Tilak	23 July, 2016
(9)	Shri Rajiv Gandhi	20 August, 2016
(10)	Dadabhai Naoroji	4 September, 2016
(11)	Mahatma Gandhi	2 October, 2016
(12)	Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri	2 October, 2016
(13)	Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel	31 October, 2016
(14)	Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das	5 November, 2016
(15)	Maulana Abul Kalam Azad	11 November, 2016
(16)	Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru	14 November, 2016
(17)	Smt. Indira Gandhi	19 November, 2016
(18)	Shri G.V Mavalankar	27 November, 2016
(19)	Dr. Rajendra Prasad	3 December, 2016
(20)	Shri C. Rajagopalachari	10 December, 2016
(21)	Chaudhary Charan Singh	23 December, 2016
(22)	Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya	25 December, 2016
(23)	Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose	23 January, 2017
(24)	Lala Lajpat Rai	28 January, 2017
(25)	Shri M.A. Ayyangar	4 February, 2017
(26)	Smt. Sarojini Naidu	13 February, 2017

- (27) Shri Morarji Desai  
(28) Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia

28 February, 2017  
23 March, 2017

The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Union Ministers, Members of Parliament, former Members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes to the aforementioned Leaders on the occasions. Booklets containing profiles of the above leaders, prepared by Research & Information Division of the Lok Sabha Secretariat, were also distributed on the occasions.

## **V LETTERS OF INTRODUCTION / FAX MESSAGES**

Letters of Introduction and Fax Messages were issued to the National Groups of Inter-Parliamentary Union, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Branches and Indian Missions in various countries in favour of following Members of the Group going abroad:-

1. Shri Vinayak Raut, MP
2. Shri Yashwantrao Gadakh, Ex-MP
3. Shri Kesineni Srinivas, MP
4. Shri A.P. Jithender Reddy, MP
5. Shri C.R. Patil, MP
6. Shri Muttamsetti Srinivasa Rao, MP
7. Shri Shivaji Adhalrao Patil, MP
8. Shri Rayapati Sambasiva Rao, MP
9. Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, MP
10. Shri Murali Mohan Maganti, MP

## **VI LIBRARY OF THE GROUP**

The following periodicals were received from the Inter-Parliamentary Union:

- (i) Constitutional and Parliamentary Information
- (ii) Inter-Parliamentary Bulletin

## **VII MEMBERSHIP**

During the year under report, 11 Members of Parliament were enrolled as Members of the Group.

As on 31 March, 2017, the total number of members of the Indian Parliamentary Group are 1492 [sitting Members(LS/RS) are 312 (222 / 90) and Associate Members are 1180].

## **VIII OBITUARY**

The Executive Committee have to record with regret the demise of the following Members of the Group during the year 2016-2017:-

1. Shri Uttam Rathod, ex-MP
2. Dr. C. Silvera, ex-MP
3. Shri Bal Raj Madhok, ex-MP
4. Shri Rumandla Ramachandrayya, ex-MP
5. Smt. Urmilaben Chimanbhai Patel, ex-MP
6. Shri F.M. Khan, ex-MP
7. Shri Praveen Rashtrapal, MP
8. Smt. Jaywanti Mehta, ex-MP
9. Shri Arjun Singh Bhadoria, ex-MP
10. Smt. Sarita Bhadoria, ex-MP
11. Shri Jujhar Singh, ex-MP
12. Dr. (Smt.), T. Kalpana Devi, ex-MP
13. Shri Krishan Pratap Singh, ex-MP
14. Dr. Laxminarayan Panday, ex-MP
15. Smt. V. Jeyalakshmi, ex-MP
16. Shri Arif Baig, ex-MP
17. Shri P. Kannan, ex-MP
18. Smt. Usha Verma, ex-MP
19. Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil, ex-MP
20. Shri E. Ahamed, MP
21. Shri Rabi Ray, former Speaker and ex-MP
22. Shri P. Shiv Shanker, ex-MP
23. Shri Syed Shahabuddin, ex-MP

## **IX ACCOUNTS**

Statements showing the Receipts and Payments Account, Income & Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet, Investments of the Group and Certificate by the Auditor as on 31 March, 2017 are attached. (Appendix I to V)

## **X MEETINGS HELD**

### **(i) Meeting of Executive Committee of Indian Parliamentary Group**

During the year 2016-2017, one meeting of the Executive Committee of the Indian Parliamentary Group was held on 11 August, 2016 . The gist of important decisions of the Executive Committee taken at the meeting are given in **Appendix-VI**

### **(ii) Annual General Meeting of Indian Parliamentary Group**

During the year 2016-2017 one Annual General meeting of the Indian Parliamentary Group was held on 11 August, 2016.

**ANOOP MISHRA**

**SECRETARY-GENERAL**

**New Delhi;**

**August, 2017**

**CERTIFICATE OF AUDITOR**

**UNDER PROCESS**

**Important decisions of the Executive Committee of the Group  
for the year 2016-2017**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Decision</b>
<b>11.08.2016</b>	Annual Report of Indian Parliamentary Group for the year 2015-2016	The Committee adopted the Annual Report for the year 2015-2016 of the Indian Parliamentary Group together with audited statements of accounts