

INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

ANNUAL REPORT

2017 – 2018

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**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

December, 2018

| Sl.No. | P | CONTENTS | Page(s) |
|--------|---|--|---------|
| A | | INTRODUCTORY | 1 |
| R 2. | | Composition of the Executive Committee | 2 |
| T 3. | | Treasurer and Members of the Executive Committee | 2 |
| 4. | | Auditor | 2 |

PART - I

| INTER PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU) RELATED ACTIVITIES | | | |
|--|--|---|----|
| A | | STATUTORY ASSEMBLIES HELD UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU) | |
| I | | 136 th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union held in Dhaka, Bangladesh in April, 2017 | 3 |
| II | | Australasian Council of Public Accounts Committee Biennial Conference held in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia on 19-21 April, 2017 | 4 |
| III | | Regional Meeting of Young Parliamentarians of the Asia-Pacific held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 25-26 April, 2017 | 5 |
| IV | | Regional Seminar on the SDGs for the Parliaments in the Asia-Pacific Region held in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam on 11-13 May, 2017 | 5 |
| V | | Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) held in Abu Dhabi, UAE on 21-24 May, 2017 | 6 |
| VI | | Intermediate Working Meeting of the Co-rapporteurs of the Third Standing Committee of IPU held in Geneva, Switzerland on 1-2 June, 2017 | 6 |
| VII | | Second Meeting of Speakers of Eurasian Countries Parliaments held in Seoul, Korea on 26-28 June, 2017 | 6 |
| VIII | | Meeting of Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) held in Thimphu, Bhutan on 31 August to 2 September, 2017 | 7 |
| IX | | World Parliamentary Forum on Sustainable Development held in Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia on 5 – 7 September, 2017 | 7 |
| X | | 38 th General Assembly of ASEAN Inter Parliamentary Assembly held in Manila, Philippines on 14-20 September, 2017 | 8 |
| XI | | Meetings of (i) 39 th Session of the Steering Committee of Parliamentary Conference on the WTO; (ii) Parliamentary Session within the framework of WTO Public Forum 2017; and (iii) WTO Public Forum 2017 held in Geneva, Switzerland on 26-28 September, 2017 | 8 |
| XII | | First Executive Council Meeting of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) held in Phnom Penh (Kingdom of Cambodia) on 1 – 4 October, 2017 | 8 |
| XIII | | 137 th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) held in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation on 14-18 October, 2017 | 9 |
| XIV | | Fourth Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians held in Ottawa, Canada on 17-18 November, 2017 | 10 |

| | | |
|----------|--|-----------|
| XV | 10 th Plenary Session and 2 nd Executive Council's Meeting of Asian Parliamentary Assembly in Istanbul, Turkey on 21-24 November, 2017 | 11 |
| XVI | International Parliamentary Conference in Astana, Kazakhstan on 27 November, 2017 | 11 |
| XVII | Parliamentarian Against Drugs held in Moscow, Russian Federation on 4 December, 2017 | 11 |
| XVIII | Annual 2017 Session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO, Buenos Aires, Argentina on 9 – 10 December, 2017 | 11 |
| XIX | 138 th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) held in Geneva, Switzerland on 24 to 28 March, 2018 | 12 |
| B | CONTRIBUTION TO THE CENTRAL FUNDS OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION | 13 |

PART – II

| COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION (CPA) RELATED EVENTS | | |
|--|--|-----------|
| I | The UK CPA Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on Modern Slavery in London from 25 to 28 April, 2017 | 14 |
| II | The CPA Mid-Year Executive Meeting in Darwin, Australia from 23 to 28 April, 2017 | 14 |
| III | The CPA Fundamental Programme on Parliamentary Practice and Procedure, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa from 22 to 28 May, 2017 | 15 |
| IV | The UK CPA Election Assessment Mission for UK General Election in London, United Kingdom from 3 to 10 June, 2017 | 15 |
| V | The 14 th CPA Canadian Parliamentary Seminar in Ottawa from 15 to 21 October, 2017 | 15 |
| VI | The 63 rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Dhaka, Bangladesh from 1 to 8 November, 2017 | 16 |
| VII | The 24 th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) in Victoria, Seychelles from 8 to 13 January, 2018 | 18 |
| VIII | The 6 th Conference of CPA India Region in Patna, Bihar from 16 to 19 February, 2018 | 19 |
| IX | The Commonwealth Parliamentarians' Forum in London from 26 February to 1 March, 2018 | 20 |
| X | The Mid-Year Meeting of the CPA Executive Committee in Mauritius from 21 to 24 March, 2018 | 22 |
| | ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION | 22 |

| PART – III | | |
|---|--|----|
| BILATERAL EXCHANGES AND OTHER EVENTS | | |
| I | FOREIGN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS VISITING INDIA | |
| (i) | Parliamentary Delegation from Mexico from 6 to 10 August, 2017 | 23 |
| (ii) | Parliamentary Delegation from Seychelles from 9 to 13 August, 2017 | 23 |
| (iii) | Parliamentary Delegation from the Republic of Chile from 5 to 9 February, 2018 | 24 |
| (iv) | Parliamentary Delegation from the Republic of Korea from 8 to 11 March, 2018 | 24 |
| II | INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS VISITING ABROAD | |
| (i) | Visit of Indian Parliamentary Delegation to Mauritius from 6 to 11 June, 2017 | 25 |
| (ii) | Visit of Indian Parliamentary Delegation to Russian Federation from 10 to 14 July, 2017 | 25 |
| III | VISIT OF FOREIGN DIGNITARIES TO PARLIAMENT COMPLEX | 25 |
| IV | FUNCTIONS / CONFERENCES HELD UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY GROUP AND FLORAL TRIBUTES TO NATIONAL LEADERS | |
| (i) | Floral Tributes to National Leaders | 26 |
| (ii) | Function to bid Farewell to outgoing President of India | 27 |
| (iii) | National Legislators Conference held in New Delhi on 10 & 11 March, 2018 | 27 |
| V | LETTERS OF INTRODUCTION / FAX MESSAGES | 29 |
| VI | LIBRARY OF THE GROUP | 29 |
| VII | FORMATION OF PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP GROUPS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES | 29 |
| VIII | MEMBERSHIP | 29 |
| IX | OBITUARY | 30 |
| X | ACCOUNTS | 31 |

| | | |
|-----------|--|----|
| XI | MEETINGS HELD | |
| (i) | Meeting of Executive Committee of IPG | 31 |
| (ii) | Annual General Meeting of IPG | 31 |
| (iii) | Meeting of Award Committee | 31 |
| (iv) | Meetings of Parliamentary Friendship Groups | |
| | (a) India-Vietnam on 2 January, 2018 | 31 |
| | (b) India-China on 4 January, 2018 | 32 |
| | (c) India-Russia on 13 February, 2018 | 32 |
| | (d) India-Republic of Korea on 27 February, 2018 | 32 |
| | (e) India-Mongolia on 8 March, 2018 | 32 |

APPENDICES

| | | |
|-----------------------|--|----|
| Appendix – I | List of Parliamentary Friendship Groups | 33 |
| Appendix - II | Receipt and Payment Account for the year ended on 31 March, 2018 | 34 |
| Appendix – III | Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended on 31 March, 2018 | 34 |
| Appendix – IV | Balance Sheet for the year ended on 31 March, 2018 | 34 |
| Appendix – V | Certificate of Auditor | 34 |
| Appendix – VI | Investments of Indian Parliamentary Group | 35 |
| Appendix – VII | Important Decisions of the Executive Committee of the Group for the year 2017-2018 | 36 |

INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

ANNUAL REPORT (2017-2018)

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, 2017 - 31 March, 2018. 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 upto 30 November, 2017. Smt. Snehlata Shrivastava who was appointed as Secretary-General, Lok Sabha on 1 December, 2017 became ex-officio Secretary-General of the Group from that date and has since continued.

3. Treasurer and Members of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee of the Group, was constituted on 14 January, 2018 by the President of the Group. The composition is as under:

TREASURER

Shri Om Birla, MP

MEMBERS

2. Shri Ramesh Bais, MP
3. Shri Rakesh Singh, MP
4. Shri Anil Gulabrao Shirole, MP
5. Dr. (Ms.) Heena Vijaykumar Gavit, MP
6. Shri Rajeev Shankarrao Satav, MP
7. Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay, MP
8. Shri Baijayant 'Jay' Panda, MP
9. Smt. Supriya S. Sule, MP
10. Shri N.K. Premachandran, MP
11. Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya, MP (RS)
12. Shri Ranvijay Singh Judev, MP (RS)
13. Dr. Vinay P. Sahasrabuddhe, MP (RS)
14. Shri Anil Desai, MP (RS)
15. Shri Naresh Gujral, MP (RS)

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

- *16. Dr. Karan Singh, ex-MP
17. Shri Sitaram Yechury, ex-MP
18. Dr. Vallabhbhai Kathiria, ex-MP
19. Shri Pradeep Gandhi, ex-MP
20. Smt. Bhavna Kardam Dave, ex-MP

***[Dr. Karan Singh, MP (RS) was Member of Executive Committee till his retirement on 27 January, 2018 and became Associate Member from 28 January, 2018]**

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Smt. Snehlata Shrivastava,
Secretary-General, Lok Sabha

INVITEE

Shri Desh Deepak Verma,
Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha

4. Auditor M/s S.S. Kothari Mehta & Company were appointed as Auditor of the Group for the year 2017-2018.

PART- I

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION RELATED ACTIVITIES

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

I. **136th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union held in Dhaka (Bangladesh) in April, 2017**

The 136th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union was held in Dhaka (Bangladesh) from 01 to 05 April, 2017. An Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan and consisting of following Members of Parliament attended the Assembly: Shri N. K. Premachandran, Dr. (Prof.) Kirit Premjibhai Solanki, Smt. Viplove Thakur, Shri Anil Desai, Shri Nagendra Singh, Shri Raj Kumar Singh, Km. Sushmita Dev, Shri Deepak Adhikari, Ms. Dola Sen. Shri Anoop Mishra, Secretary General, Lok Sabha also attended the Assembly. Shri P. C. Koul, Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat was Secretary to the delegation.

The Assembly held General debate on the overall theme of '*Redressing inequalities: Delivering on dignity and well-being for all*'. The four Standing Committees of IPU also met during the Assembly and held sessions on the following themes:

a) First Standing Committee of IPU on Peace and International Security:-

Debate on the draft Resolution on "The role of Parliament in preventing outside interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States".

b) Second Standing Committee of IPU on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade:-

Debate on the draft Resolution on "Promoting enhanced international cooperation on the SDGs, in particular on the financial inclusion of women as a driver of development."

- c) Third Standing Committee of IPU on Democracy and Human Rights:-
 - (i) Debate on the draft resolution on "Sharing our diversity: The 20th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Democracy".
 - (ii) Debate on the topic "Act now for adolescents: The role of parliamentarians in promoting adolescent health and well being".
- d) The Fourth Standing Committee of the IPU on United Nations Affairs:-
 - (i) Debate on "Parliamentary follow-up on the SDGs in preparation for the 2017 session of the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on sustainable development."
 - (ii) Panel discussion on the main theme of "The 2017 UN HLPF: Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world".

Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha and leader of Indian Delegation participated in the General debate. The Indian Delegation also participated in the meetings of the Four Standing Committees of IPU , the Governing Council of IPU, Forum of Young Parliamentarians , Forum of Women Parliamentarians as well as the Asia-Pacific Geo Political Group (APG) of the IPU.

Shri Anoop Mishra, Secretary-General, Lok Sabha and a member of ASGP attended the Meetings of Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments (ASGP).

II. Australasian Council of Public Accounts Committee Biennial Conference held in Brisbane, Queensland (Australia) on 19-21 April, 2017.

The Australasian Council of Public Accounts Committee Biennial Conference was held in Brisbane, Queensland (Australia) on 19-21 April, 2017. Prof. K.V. Thomas, MP, Lok Sabha (Chairperson, Public Accounts Committee) and Leader of the Delegation and Shri Anurag Singh Thakur, MP, Lok Sabha had participated in the aforesaid event. Shri A.K. Singh, Additional Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat was Secretary to the Delegation.

III. Regional Meeting of Young Parliamentarians of the Asia-Pacific held in Colombo (Sri Lanka) on 25-26 April, 2017.

The Regional Meeting of Young Parliamentarians of the Asia-Pacific was held in Colombo (Sri Lanka) on 25-26 April, 2017 on "The Role of Young Parliamentarians in Advancing Inclusive & Peaceful Societies & Preventing Violent Extremism." Shri Rahul Kaswan, MP, Lok Sabha and Dr. Heena Vijaykumar Gavit, MP, Lok Sabha had participated in the aforesaid event. Shri Y. M. Kandpal, Director, Lok Sabha Secretariat was Secretary to the Delegation.

The theme of the meeting mainly encompassed the following sessions:

- (i) Engaging youth through political participation.
- (ii) Drivers of violent extremism & radicalization.
- (iii) The role of Young Parliamentarians in changing the gender narratives conducive to violent extremism.
- (iv) Preventing violent extremism & sustaining peace through civic engagements.
- (v) Taking parliamentary action to prevent violent extremism.
- (vi) What can Parliaments & Young Members do to address violent extremism.

IV. Regional Seminar on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the Parliaments in the Asia-Pacific region held in Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam) on 11-13 May 2017.

The Regional Seminar on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the Parliaments in the Asia-Pacific region was held in Ho Chi Minh City (Viet Nam) on 11-13 May 2017. Shri Rattan Lal Kataria, MP, Lok Sabha had participated in the aforesaid event. Shri Rajinder Singh Kambo, Additional Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat was Secretary to the Delegation. The Indian Parliamentary Delegation participated in the debate on the theme '*Responding to climate change actions of Legislators to achieve the SDGs*'

V. Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) held in Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates) from 21-24 May, 2017.

The Meeting of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) Standing Committee on Staff and Financial Regulations was held in Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates) from 21-24 May, 2017. Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, MP, Lok Sabha, (Chairperson, Railway Convention Committee) and Leader of the Delegation and Smt. Santosh Ahlawat, MP, Lok Sabha had participated in the aforesaid event. Shri P. C. Koul, Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat was Secretary to the Delegation. During the meeting, the participants deliberated on the draft resolution on APA Financial and Staff Regulations.

VI. Intermediate Working Meeting of the Co-rapporteurs of the Third Standing Committee of IPU held in Geneva (Switzerland) on 1-2 June, 2017.

The Intermediate Working Meeting of the Co-rapporteurs of the Third Standing Committee of IPU was held in Geneva (Switzerland) on 1-2 June, 2017. Km. Sushmita Dev, MP, Lok Sabha had participated in the aforesaid event. During the event, discussion was held on the draft resolution and the explanatory memorandum on the subject item '*Sharing our Diversity: The 20th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Democracy*' of the Third Standing Committee of the IPU.

VII. Second Meeting of Speakers of Eurasian Countries' Parliaments held in Seoul (Korea) on 26-28 June 2017.

The Second Meeting of Speakers of Eurasian Countries' Parliaments was held in Seoul (Korea) on 26-28 June 2017. Shri Suresh Chanabasappa Angadi, MP, Lok Sabha and Chairman of the House Committee had participated in the aforesaid event. The delegation deliberated on the subject '*Promotion of Inter Parliamentary Cooperation for Common Prosperity in the Eurasian Region*'.

VIII. Meeting of Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) held in Thimphu, Bhutan, from 31 August to 2 September, 2017.

The Meeting of Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) was held in Thimphu, Bhutan, from 31 August to 2 September, 2017. Shri Sunil Baliram Gaikwad, MP, Lok Sabha attended the above Meeting. Smt. Kalpana Sharma, Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat was Secretary to the Delegation. During the meeting, various draft resolutions were taken up for discussion and adoption:

IX. World Parliamentary Forum on Sustainable Development held in Nusa Dua, Bali (Indonesia) from 5 to 7 September, 2017.

The World Parliamentary Forum on Sustainable Development was held in Nusa Dua, Bali (Indonesia) from 5 to 07 September, 2017. An Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by Hon'ble Speaker Lok Sabha, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan attended the Forum. Shri Rakesh Singh, MP, Lok Sabha, Shri Jose K. Mani, MP, Lok Sabha, Smt. Riti Pathak, MP, Lok Sabha, Shri La. Ganesan, MP Rajya Sabha and Shri Anoop Mishra, Secretary General, Lok Sabha were also part of the delegation. Shri Ajay Kumar Munshi, Director, Lok Sabha Secretariat was Secretary to the Delegation.

The Forum deliberated on the several subjects of topical relevance focusing on Sustainable Development Goals including inclusive and equitable development, climate change, peaceful co-existence, women land rights, contribution of women leaders, post legislative scrutiny on SDGs issues, regional cooperation, etc.

At the end of the event, a declaration namely 'Bali Declaration' was adopted on the theme "Achieving the 2030 Agenda through Inclusive Development". However, India decided to dissociate itself from the adoption of the declaration.

X. 38th General Assembly of ASEAN Inter Parliamentary Assembly held in Manila, Philippines from 14 to 20 September,2017.

The 38th General Assembly of ASEAN Inter Parliamentary Assembly was held in Manila, Philippines from 14-20 September,2017. An Indian Parliamentary Delegation was invited to attend the event in the capacity of observer member state. Shri Ganesh Singh, MP, Lok Sabha represented the Indian side in the aforesaid Assembly. The main theme of the Assembly was "AIPA and ASEAN Partnering for Inclusive Change". Shri Atul Kaushik, Additional Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat was Secretary to the delegation.

XI. Meetings of (i) 39th Session of the Steering Committee of Parliamentary Conference on the WTO; (ii) Parliamentary Session within the framework of WTO Public Forum 2017; and (iii) WTO Public Forum 2017 held in Geneva (Switzerland) from 26 to 28 September, 2017.

Shri Anurag Singh Thakur, MP, Lok Sabha, Chairman, Standing Committee of Information Technology and the Member of the IPU Steering Committee of Parliamentary Conference on the WTO participated in the above Meetings. During the abovementioned meetings, discussions were held on the following themes:-

- (i) Trade: Behind the Headlines;
- (ii) Making Trade Fair: The contribution of Parliaments; and
- (iii) Update on recent developments at the WTO including preparation of the 11th Ministerial Conference in Argentina

XII. First Executive Council Meeting of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) held in Phnom Penh (Kingdom of Cambodia) from 1 to 4 October, 2017.

The First Executive Council Meeting of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) was held in Phnom Penh (Kingdom of Cambodia) from 1 to 4 October, 2017. Shri Raghav Lakhanpal, MP, Lok Sabha participated in the aforesaid event. Smt. Rimjhim Prasad, Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat and Secretary to the Delegation also attended the event. Discussion on various draft resolutions were held during the Meeting.

XIII. 137th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union(IPU) held in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation from 14 to 18 October, 2017.

The 137th Assembly of the IPU was held in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation from 14 to 18 October, 2017. An Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan and consisting of following Members of Parliament attended the Assembly: Sh. Basawaraj Patil, Sh. Anil Desai, Smt. Sasikala Pushpa, Sh. Nagendra Singh, Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati, Km. Sushmita Dev and Smt. Raksha Nikhil Khadse. Shri Anoop Mishra, Secretary General, Lok Sabha and Shri Desh Deepak Verma, Secretary General, Rajya Sabha also attended the Assembly. Shri Atul Kaushik, Additional Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat was Secretary to Delegation.

The Assembly held General debate on the overall theme of '*Promoting cultural pluralism and peace through inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue*'. The four Standing Committees of IPU also met during the Assembly and held sessions on the following themes:

- (a) First Standing Committee of IPU on Peace and International Security
 - (i) Panel Discussion on 'The role of Parliament in monitoring the action of national armed forces participating in UN Peacekeeping Operations.'
 - (ii) Expert hearing on 'Sustaining peace as a vehicle for achieving sustainable development'.
- (b) Second Standing Committee of IPU on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade
 - (i) Debate on 'Engaging the private sector in implementing the SDGs, especially on renewably energy;
 - (ii) Briefing on Parliamentary contribution to the 2017 United Nations Climate Change Conference;
 - (iii) Panel discussion on 'Using Science and Research to achieve the highest health Standards'
- (c) Third Standing Committee of IPU on Democracy and Human Rights:-

Deliberation on the draft resolution on "Sharing our diversity: The 20th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Democracy"

(d) The Fourth Standing Committee of the IPU on United Nations affairs:-

- (i) Panel discussion on "The Role of UN General Assembly in International Governance: What Path Forward?"
- (ii) Panel discussion on "The Parliamentary Dimension to the United Nation - 20 Years in the Making".

Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha participated in the General debate. The Indian Delegation also participated in the sessions of the Four Standing Committees of IPU, the Governing Council of IPU, IPU Advisory Group on Health, Forum of Young Parliamentarians, Forum of Women Parliamentarians as well as in the meetings of the Asia - Pacific Geo Political Group (APG) of IPU. A meeting of BRICS Parliamentary Forum was also held on the sidelines of the Assembly which was attended by the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha and other members of the delegation.

Shri Anoop Mishra, Secretary-General, Lok Sabha and Shri Desh Deepak Verma, Secretary- General, Rajya Sabha, (Members of ASGP) attended the Meetings of Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments (ASGP).

XIV. Fourth Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians held in Ottawa (Canada) from 17 to 18 November,2017

The Fourth Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians was held in Ottawa (Canada) from 17 to 18 November,2017. Shri Prathap Simha, MP; Smt. Priyanka Singh Rawat, MP; Shri Conard Kongkal Sangma, MP; and Shri Mir Mohammad Fayaz, MP attended the conference. Shri Dal Singh Malha, Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat was Secretary to the Delegation.

During the abovementioned conference, discussions were held on the following themes.

- (i) Young people on the move: Migration and asylum seeking in the 21st Century;
- (ii) Inclusive Growth and Trade, Environmental Sustainability and improved well-being; and
- (iii) Inclusive political participation.

An Outcome document was also adopted during the event.

XV. 10th Plenary Session and 2nd Executive Council's Meeting of Asian Parliamentary Assembly in Istanbul (Turkey) from 21 to 24 November, 2017

The 10th Plenary Session and 2nd Executive Council's Meeting of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) were held in Istanbul (Turkey) from 21 to 24 November, 2017. The theme of the 10th Plenary Session of Asian Parliamentary Assembly was 'Sustaining Peace and Development in Asia'. Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, MP and Shri Kunwar Bhartendra Singh, MP attended the above mentioned Meeting. Smt. Rimjhim Prasad, Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat was Secretary to the Delegation.

XVI. International Parliamentary Conference in Astana, Kazakhstan on 27 November 2017

Shri Richard Hay, MP attended an International Parliamentary Conference held in Astana, Kazakhstan on 27 November 2017. The conference was organised in the honour of the 'Day of the First President of Kazakhstan'.

XVII. "Parliamentarian Against Drugs" held in Moscow, Russian Federation on 4 December 2017.

An International Conference on the subject "Parliamentarian Against Drugs" was held in Moscow, Russian Federation on 4 December 2017. Dr. Yashwant Singh, MP and Shri Harish Chandra Meena, MP attended the Conference. Smt Abha Singh Yaduvanshi, Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat was Secretary to the Delegation. During the Conference discussions were held on the following sub themes:-

- (i) Improving of the Legislative Regulation of Combating the Illicit Drug Trafficking.
- (ii) Drug Addiction: Modern Approaches to the Treatment and Rehabilitation; and
- (iii) The Role of the NGO in fight against drugs.

XVIII. Annual 2017 Session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO, Buenos Aires (Argentina), 9 to 10 December 2017

The Annual 2017 Session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO was held in Buenos Aires (Argentina) between 9 to 10 December 2017. Shri Anurag Singh Thakur, MP; Dr. Kirit Jayantilal Somaiya, MP and Shri Swapan Dasgupta, MP attended the Conference. Shri Abhijit Kumar, Additional Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat was Secretary to the Delegation. During the session, interactive debates were held and related reports were presented on the following themes:

- (i) E-commerce and the Internationalization of SMEs; and
- (ii) The role of multilateralism in times of rising protectionism

XIX. 138th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) held in Geneva, Switzerland from 24 to 28 March, 2018.

The 138th Assembly of the IPU was held in Geneva, Switzerland from 24 to 28 March, 2018. An Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Dr. M. Thambi Durai and consisting of following Members of Parliament attended the Assembly: Dr. (Prof.) Kirit Premjibhai Solanki, Shri Dilip Kumar Tirkey, Shri Nagendra Singh, Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati, Dr. Uma Saren and Dr. Vikas Mahatme. Shri P.C.Koul, Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat was Secretary to the Delegation.

The Assembly held General debate on the overall theme of '*Strengthening the global regime for migrants and refugees: the need for evidence-based policy solutions*'. The four Standing Committees of IPU also met during the Assembly and held sessions on the following themes:

- a) First Standing Committee of IPU on Peace and International Security:-
Debate on the draft resolution on "Sustaining peace as a vehicle for achieving sustainable development"
- b) Second Standing Committee of IPU on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade:-
Debate on the draft resolution on "Engaging the private sector in implementing the SDGs, especially on renewable energy"

c) Third Standing Committee of IPU on Democracy and Human Rights:-

- (i) Debate on the draft resolution on "Strengthening Inter-Parliamentary cooperation on migration and migration governance in view of the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration".
- (ii) Debate on "The role of parliaments in ending discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and ensuring respect for the human rights of LGBTI persons"

d) The Fourth Standing Committee of the IPU on United Nations Affairs

Debate on "The Preparations for the 2018 session of the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on sustainable development."

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha participated in the General debate. The Indian delegation also participated in the sessions of Four Standing Committees of IPU, the Governing Council of IPU, Forum of Young Parliamentarians, Forum of Women Parliamentarians as well as in the meetings of the Asia-Pacific Geo Political Group (APG) of IPU

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

Indian Parliamentary Group's Annual Contribution of CHF 99,100 (Rs. 72,00,000/-) to the Central Fund of the Inter-Parliamentary Union for the year 2017-18 was paid out of the grant sanctioned by Parliament. An amount of CHF 500 (Rs. 35,000/-) 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 functions as the Secretariat for the India Branch of the CPA and the Secretariat for the CPA India Region. The India Branch of the CPA entered the Sixty Ninth Year in 2017-18. India Region has become a separate region of the CPA from September, 2004. The following events took place during the period under review:

I THE UK CPA ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON MODERN SLAVERY IN LONDON FROM 25 TO 28 APRIL, 2017

Following Members of Parliament attended the Workshop:

- (i) Shri Jagdambika Pal, MP (Lok Sabha)
- (ii) Shri Ramen Deka, MP (Lok Sabha)
- (iii) Smt. P.K. Sreemathi Teacher, MP (Lok Sabha)
- (iv) Shri Bhupender Yadav, MP (Rajya Sabha)
- (v) Shri B. K. Hariprasad, MP (Rajya Sabha)
- (vi) Shri Satish Chandra Misra, MP (Rajya Sabha)
- (vii) Smt. Anju Bala, MP (Lok Sabha)
- (viii) Shri A.T. Nana Patil, MP, (Lok Sabha)

The Delegates actively participated in the discussions on the Agenda Topics and presented the stance of CPA India Region on the issue.

II THE CPA MID-YEAR EXECUTIVE MEETING IN DARWIN, AUSTRALIA FROM 23 TO 28 APRIL, 2017

Shri Feroze Varun Gandhi, MP (Lok Sabha) and a Member of CPA Executive Committee from CPA India (Union) Branch attended the CPA Mid-Year Executive Committee Meeting. The two other members of CPA Executive Committee from CPA State Branches viz. Dr. Sitasaran Sharma, Speaker, Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly and Shri Kavinder Gupta, Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly also attended the meeting.

The Members from CPA India Region also attended the meetings of the Sub-Committees of CPA Executive Committee in which they were Members.

III THE CPA FUNDAMENTAL PROGRAMME ON PARLIAMENTARY PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE, UNIVERSITY OF WITWATERSRAND, JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA FROM 22 TO 28 MAY, 2017

Shri Ajay Misra (Teni), MP (Lok Sabha) attended the CPA Fundamental Programme on Parliamentary Practice and Procedure, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa from 22 to 28 May, 2017 on the nomination of Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha. The Programme involved on-line course prior to actual participation of the Member in the University campus.

IV THE UK CPA ELECTION ASSESSMENT MISSION FOR UK GENERAL ELECTION IN LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM FROM 3 TO 10 JUNE, 2017

Shri Baijayant 'Jay' Panda, MP (Lok Sabha) and Ms. Shobha Karandlaje, MP (Lok Sabha) attended the UK CPA Election Assessment Mission for UK General Election in London, United Kingdom from 3 to 10 June, 2017 on the nomination of Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha. They were Parliamentary Election Observers.

V THE 14TH CPA CANADIAN PARLIAMENTARY SEMINAR IN OTTAWA FROM 15-21 OCTOBER, 2017

The 14th CPA Canadian Parliamentary Seminar was held in Ottawa from 15 to 21 October, 2017. The theme of the Seminar was "Strengthening Democracy and the Role of Parliamentarians: Challenges and Solutions."

Shri Sharad Tripathi, MP (Lok Sabha) attended the Seminar from CPA India Union Branch.

The following subjects were discussed in the Seminar:

- (i) The Commonwealth and the Role of the CPA;
- (ii) The Canadian Political Scene;
- (iii) Overview of the Role and Operation of the Canadian Parliament;
- (iv) Parliamentary Committees: What Works and What Doesn't;

- (v) Financing Election;
- (vi) The Parliamentary Presence of Political Parties: The role of Party Caucuses;
- (vii) How an M.P.'s Office Works;
- (viii) Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians and the Role Nationally and Internationally;
- (ix) Engaging Citizens: Resources and Tools;
- (x) Influencing Governments and Regulating Influence: Parliament and Lobbyists;
- (xi) Comparing Election Media Coverage Across the Commonwealth; and
- (xii) Presentation on Regional Topics of Interest.

VI THE 63RD COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE IN DHAKA, BANGLADESH FROM 1 TO 8 NOVEMBER, 2017

The 63rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference was held in Dhaka from 1 to 8 November, 2017. An Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha attended the Conference. The Delegation comprised of Shri Devendra Bhole Singh, MP (Lok Sabha); Shri Subhash Patel, MP (Lok Sabha) and Smt. Roopa Ganguly, MP (Rajya Sabha). Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi, MP (Lok Sabha) and a member of CWP Steering Committee also attended the CWP Conference.

The Conference was also attended by Presiding Officers from State CPA Branches viz. Dr. Kodela Siva Prasada Rao, Speaker, Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly; Shri Er. Tenzing Norbu Thongdok, Speaker, Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly; Shri Hitendra Nath Goswami, Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly; Shri Vijay Kumar Choudhary, Speaker, Bihar Vidhan Sabha; Shri Gaurishankar Agrawal, Speaker, Chhattisgarh Vidhan Sabha; Shri Ram Niwas Goel, Speaker, Delhi Vidhan Sabha; Dr. Pramod Sawant, Speaker, Goa Legislative Assembly; Shri Kanwar Pal, Speaker, Haryana Vidhan Sabha; Shri Kavinder Gupta, Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly and a Member of CPA Executive Committee; Shri Dinesh Oraon, Speaker, Jharkhand Vidhan Sabha; Shri N.H.Shivashankara Reddy, Speaker, Karnataka Legislative Assembly; Shri V. Sasi, Deputy Speaker, Kerala Legislative Assembly; Dr. Sitasaran Sharma, Speaker, Madhya Pradesh Vidhan Sabha and a Member of CPA Executive

Committee; Shri Yumnam Khemchand Singh, Speaker, Manipur Legislative Assembly; Shri R. Lalrinawma, Deputy Speaker, Mizoram Legislative Assembly; Shri Pradeep Kumar Amat, Speaker, Odisha Legislative Assembly, Dr. Imtiwapang Aier, Speaker, Nagaland Legislative Assembly; Shri Ve. Vaithilingam, Speaker, Puducherry Legislative Assembly; Shri Kedar Nath Rai, Speaker, Sikkim Legislative Assembly; Shri P. Dhanapal, Speaker, Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly; Shri Prem Chand Aggarwal, Speaker, Uttarakhand Vidhan Sabha; Shri Hridaya Narayan Dikshit, Speaker, Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha and Shri Biman Bandyopadhyay, Speaker, West Bengal Legislative Assembly.

Dr. Sitasaran Sharma, Speaker, Madhya Pradesh Vidhan Sabha and Shri Kavinder Gupta, Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly attended the Executive Committee Meetings of CPA. Shri Kavinder Gupta, Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly and Shri Hitendra Nath Goswami, Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly attended the New Executive Committee Meeting.

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

- (i) Democracy must deliver: Role of Parliament in addressing the challenges (Workshop 'A');
- (ii) The role of Parliamentarians in building stronger ties within the Commonwealth: including new trade issues, visa issues, travel restrictions, non-tariff restrictions, etc. (Workshop 'B');
- (iii) The Climate Change Debate: A challenge for the Commonwealth? (Workshop 'C');
- (iv) Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's): How can CPA Members work with their own governments in ensuring that the SDG goals have a proper gender lens to ensure success in the areas of alleviating poverty and women's empowerment? (Gender-related Topic) (Workshop 'D');
- (v) Critical Mass: Small jurisdictions and big problems – Logistics and infrastructure challenges (Small Branches Topic) (Workshop 'E');
- (vi) CPA Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures: Progress in the past 10 years (Workshop 'F');
- (vii) Giving voice to the youth: Mechanisms for ensuring effective participation of youth in the governance process (Workshop 'G'); and
- (viii) What factors fuel the rise of different kinds of nationalism? (Workshop 'H').

Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha was a Lead Speaker on the topic "Giving voice to the youth: Mechanisms for ensuring effective participation of youth in the governance process" (Workshop 'G'); Shri Devendra Bhole Singh, MP (Lok Sabha) participated in Workshop 'D' on the topic "Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's): How can CPA Members work with their own governments in ensuring that the SDG goals have a proper gender lens to ensure success in the areas of alleviating poverty and women's empowerment?"; Shri Subhash Patel, MP (Lok Sabha) participated in Workshop 'C' on the topic "The Climate Change Debate: A challenge for the Commonwealth? and Smt. Roopa Ganguly, MP (Rajya Sabha) participated in Workshop 'B' on the topic "The role of Parliamentarians in building stronger ties within the Commonwealth: including new trade issues, visa issues, travel restrictions, non-tariff restrictions, etc." and Workshop 'H' on the topic "What factors fuel the rise of different kinds of nationalism?."

Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi, MP (Lok Sabha) and Member, CWP Steering Committee was a Discussion Leader for the CWP Session topic "If we want positive change in the world we need more women leaders. How can we persuade the world that the future is dependent on gender equality."

Hon. Emilia Monjowa Lifaka, MP, Deputy Speaker of Cameroon was elected to the post of Chairperson, CPA Executive Committee for three year i.e. 2017 – 2020 at the General Assembly of the 63rd CPC.

VII THE 24TH CONFERENCE OF SPEAKERS AND PRESIDING OFFICERS OF THE COMMONWEALTH (CSPOC) TO BE HELD FROM 8 TO 13 JANUARY, 2018 IN VICTORIA, SEYCHELLES

The 24th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) was held in Victoria, Seychelles from 8 to 13 January, 2018. Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha attended the Conference. Smt. Snehlata Shrivastava, Secretary General, Lok Sabha also attended the Conference as an "Observer".

Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha attended the meeting of Standing Committee of CSPOC on Monday, 8 January, 2018 as a member of the Standing Committee of CSPOC from India Region.

During the Conference, four Workshops were held on the following topics:

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Workshop I | The role of the Speaker in strengthening parliamentary diplomacy in both regional and international cooperation; |
| Workshop II | Use of technology to support Members and House Business; |
| Workshop III | Strengthening Parliamentary Research for the effective functioning of Legislatures; and |
| Workshop IV | Emerging security issues for Parliamentarians. |

There was a Special General Plenary on the topic “The role of the Speakers in strengthening Parliament as an institution of Accountability, Openness and Transparency.”

Hon’ble Speaker, Lok Sabha was the Keynote Speaker on Workshop III on the topic “Strengthening Parliamentary Research for the effective functioning of Legislatures” held on Wednesday, 10 January, 2018. Hon’ble Speaker, Lok Sabha also participated in the discussions on other Workshop Topics. She attended and participated in the Special General Plenary and attended the Closing Plenary Session on Thursday, 11 January, 2018.

VIII The 6th Conference of CPA India Region held in Patna, Bihar from 16 to 19 February, 2018

The 6th Conference of CPA India Region was hosted by the Bihar CPA Branch from 16 to 19 February, 2018. Hon’ble Speaker, Lok Sabha and Chairperson, CPA Executive Committee, India Region inaugurated the Conference on 17 February, 2018. Shri Vijay Kumar Choudhary, Speaker, Bihar Legislative Assembly welcomed the delegates to the Conference. The following dignitaries addressed the Opening Ceremony:

- (i) Shri Nitish Kumar, Hon’ble Chief Minister of Bihar;
- (ii) Mrs. Emilia Monjowa Lifaka, Chairperson of the CPA Executive Committee;
- (iii) Mr. Akbar Khan, Secretary General, CPA; and
- (iv) Shri Sushil Kumar Modi, Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar;

Md. Haroon Rashid, Deputy Chairman, Bihar Legislative Council delivered a Vote of Thanks.

The Conference was attended by delegates from State CPA Branches in India and one Observer each from the CPA Africa Region and CPA Australia Region.

There were two Plenary Sessions, which discussed following topics:

- (i) Parliament's role in the development agenda; and
- (ii) Relationship between the Legislature & Judiciary.

Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, MP (Lok Sabha) attended the Opening Ceremony. He was the Lead Speaker in the Plenary Session-I on the topic "Parliament's role in the development agenda" and Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Union Minister of Law and Justice and Electronic and Information Technology was the Lead Speaker in the Plenary Session-II on the topic "Relationship between the Legislature & Judiciary." 15 delegates participated in the first session and 12 delegates in the second session.

CPA India Region Executive Committee meeting and General Assembly were also held during the Conference. Post Conference tours to historical and tourist places namely, Gaya, Bodh Gaya and Rajgir were also arranged by the host Bihar CPA Branch.

IX THE COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARIANS' FORUM HELD IN LONDON FROM 26 FEBRUARY TO 1 MARCH, 2018

The Commonwealth Parliamentarians' Forum was held in London from 26 February to 1 March, 2018.

Following four Members of Parliament attended the Forum:

- (i) Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, MP, Lok Sabha;
- (ii) Shri Om Prakash Mathur, MP, Rajya Sabha;
- (iii) Shri Vivek Gupta, MP, Rajya Sabha; and
- (iv) Smt. Mala Rajya Laxmi Shah, MP, Lok Sabha.

Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, MP Lok Sabha was the "Leader of the Delegation."

Following Topics were discussed during the Forum:

| | | |
|----|------------|--|
| 1 | Session 1 | Engaging with the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2018 |
| 2 | Session 2 | “If you’re in the room, be in the room!” |
| 3 | Session 3 | ‘The Commonwealth Body’ – Re-imagining the sum of all our parts |
| 4 | Session 4 | Upholding the Commonwealth Charter or challenging it – Can the Commonwealth of the 21st century be a uniting force for good? |
| 5 | Session 5 | How can Commonwealth parliaments more effectively hold governments to account in achieving the SDGs? |
| 6 | Session 6 | Delivering on the Commonwealth Advantage – How do we ensure it works for all? |
| 7 | Session 7 | Financing for Development |
| 8 | Session 8 | Building cultures of trust and confidence across Commonwealth political systems |
| 9 | Session 9 | The Role for Commonwealth Parliaments as partners and collaborators in meeting the global challenge of climate change |
| 10 | Session 10 | Promoting open, modern, and inclusive democracies |
| 11 | Session 11 | Preventing conflict & sustaining peace across the Commonwealth |
| 12 | Session 12 | Freedom of religion or belief - How to understand the role of religion and the role of secular government; How to ensure peaceful co-existence of different religious and belief groups? |
| 13 | Session 13 | Launching the ‘Commonwealth School of Inclusive Thought’ |
| 14 | Session 14 | The role of global health in addressing fairness, prosperity, security, and sustainability |
| 15 | Session 15 | The Pan-Commonwealth Monitoring Group on what happens after the Forum and beyond the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in April 2018. |
| 16 | Session 16 | Government Transparency & Accountability: How can parliamentarians be part of the ‘data and evidence revolution’? |
| 17 | Session 17 | What role can Commonwealth parliamentarians play in tackling Human Trafficking and Child Exploitation? |
| 18 | Session 18 | The Commonwealth Prosperity Outlook: Forecasts & Predictions |
| 19 | Session 19 | Stimulating Jobs & Livelihoods - Developing skills for the future across the Commonwealth |
| 20 | Session 20 | Challenge and Disruption: what role can enterprising parliamentarians across the Commonwealth play in driving forward legislative change? |
| 21 | Session 21 | The Commonwealth and its Future: Open-House Q&A session |

| | | |
|----|------------|--|
| 22 | Session 22 | How can Commonwealth parliamentarians promote smarter and more inclusive cities? |
| 23 | Session 23 | Renewal, Reform, and Innovation: What should the future parliamentarian look like? |
| 24 | Session 24 | What would you do as Head of Government? Pitches and Pleas |

Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, MP Lok Sabha was also a Lead Speaker on the topic “**How can Commonwealth parliamentarians’ promote smarter and more inclusive cities?**”

X THE MID-YEAR MEETING OF THE CPA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HELD IN MAURITIUS FROM 21 TO 24 MARCH, 2018

The Mid-Year Meeting of the CPA Executive Committee was held in Mauritius from 21 to 24 March, 2018. The following three Regional Representatives from CPA India Region attended the Meeting:

- (i) Shri Feroze Varun Gandhi, MP (Lok Sabha);
- (ii) Shri Kavinder Gupta,
Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly; and
- (iii) Shri Hitendra Nath Goswami,
Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly.

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION

The annual contribution of the India Branch of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association for the year 2017-18 to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association was pounds 32,387, equivalent to Rs. 29,54,081/- and paid out of the grant sanctioned by Parliament.

PART – III**BILATERAL EXCHANGES AND OTHER EVENTS****I FOREIGN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS VISITING INDIA**

- (i) **MEXICO:** A 4-member Parliamentary Delegation from Mexico led by H.E. Ms. Maria Guadalupe Murguia Gutierrez, President of the Chamber of Deputies of the Congress of Mexico visited India from 6 to 10 August, 2017.

On Tuesday, 8 August, 2017, the delegation witnessed the proceedings of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha in Session from the 'Special Box'. On the same day they called on Shri Ram Nath Kovind, Hon'ble President of India and Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha. A banquet was hosted by Hon'ble Speaker in honour of the Delegation.

On Wednesday, 9 August, 2017, they called on Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs.

Besides Delhi, the delegation also visited Agra.

- (ii) **THE REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES:** A 12-member Parliamentary Delegation from the Republic of Seychelles led by Hon. Patrick Pillay, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Seychelles visited India from 9 to 13 August, 2017.

On Wednesday, 9 August, 2017 the delegation witnessed the proceedings of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha in Session from the 'Special Box'.

On Thursday, 10 August, 2017, they called on Shri Ram Nath Kovind, Hon'ble President of India, Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha. A banquet was hosted by Hon'ble Speaker in honour of the delegation.

Besides Delhi, the Delegation also visited Jaipur.

- (iii) **THE REPUBLIC OF CHILE:** A 9-member Parliamentary Delegation from the Republic of Chile led by H.E. Mr. Fidel Espinoza, President of the Chamber of Deputies of the Republic of Chile visited India from 5 to 9 February, 2018.

On Monday, 5 February, 2018, the delegation called on Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, Hon'ble Vice President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, and also met Shri Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

On Tuesday, 6 February, 2018, the delegation witnessed the proceedings of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha in Session from the 'Special Box'. Later they called on Shri Ram Nath Kovind, Hon'ble President of India and Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha. A banquet was hosted in the evening by Hon'ble Speaker in honour of the Delegation.

On Friday, 9 February, 2018, they met Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi, Minister of Women and Child Development.

Besides Delhi, the delegation also visited Agra.

- (iv) **THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA:** A 25-member Parliamentary Delegation from the Republic of Korea led by H.E. Mr. Chung Sye Kyun, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea visited India from 8 to 11 March, 2018.

On Thursday, 8 March, 2018, the delegation called on Shri Ram Nath Kovind, Hon'ble President of India; Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, Hon'ble Vice President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha; and 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 Friday, 9 March, 2018 the delegation witnessed the proceedings of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha in Session from the 'Special Box'. On the same day, they met Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs.

Besides Delhi, the Delegation also visited Agra.

II INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION VISITING ABROAD

- (i) **MAURITIUS:** An eight-member Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan visited Mauritius from 6 to 11 June, 2017, under bilateral exchange. The Members of the Delegation were: Shri Sushil Kumar Singh, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao Mahadik, Smt. Neelam Sonker, Shri K. K. Ragesh and Shri Ripun Bora, all Members of Parliament and Shri Anoop Mishra, Secretary General, Lok Sabha. Shri P. C. Koul, Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat was Secretary to the Delegation.
- (ii) **RUSSIAN FEDERATION:** A six-member Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan visited the Russian Federation from 10 to 14 July, 2017, under bilateral exchange. The Members of the Delegation were: Dr. Virendra Kumar, Shri Mohammed Salim, Smt. Hema Malini, Shri Nalin Kumar Kateel, and Shri C.P. Narayanan, MP (Rajya Sabha), all Members of Parliament. Shri Atul Kaushik, Additional Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat was Secretary to the Delegation.

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

- Israel** : H.E. Mr. Daniel Carmon, Ambassador of Israel called on Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha on 14 August, 2017 at 20, Akbar Road, New Delhi.
- Australia** : An Australian Parliamentary Delegation led by Mr. Anthony Albanese, MP called on Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha on 30 October, 2017 in Parliament House.
- Republic of Korea** : A delegation of Indian Cultural Centre, Busan, Republic of Korea met the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha on 9 November, 2017 in Parliament Library Building.
- Vietnam** : Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha called on H.E. Mr. Tran Dai Quang, President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on 3 March, 2018 in Hotel Taj Palace, New Delhi.
- Russia** : H.E. Mr. Nikolay Rishatovich Kudashev, Ambassador of Russian Federation called on Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha on 13 March, 2018 in Parliament House.

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

(i) 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, 2017 |
| (2) | Dr. B.R. Ambedkar | 14 April, 2017 |
| (3) | Pt. Motilal Nehru | 6 May, 2017 |
| (4) | Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore | 9 May, 2017 |
| (5) | Swatantryaveer Vinayak Damodar Savarkar | 28 May, 2017 |
| (6) | Shri K.S. Hegde | 11 June, 2017 |
| (7) | Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee | 6 July, 2017 |
| (8) | Shri Bal Gangadhar Tilak | 23 July, 2017 |
| (9) | Shri Rajiv Gandhi | 20 August, 2017 |
| (10) | Dadabhai Naoroji | 4 September, 2017 |
| (11) | Mahatma Gandhi | 2 October, 2017 |
| (12) | Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri | 2 October, 2017 |
| (13) | Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel | 31 October, 2017 |
| (14) | Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das | 5 November, 2017 |
| (15) | Maulana Abul Kalam Azad | 11 November, 2017 |
| (16) | Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru | 14 November, 2017 |
| (17) | Smt. Indira Gandhi | 19 November, 2017 |
| (18) | Shri G.V Mavalankar | 27 November, 2017 |
| (19) | Dr. Rajendra Prasad | 3 December, 2017 |
| (20) | Shri C. Rajagopalachari | 10 December, 2017 |
| (21) | Chaudhary Charan Singh | 23 December, 2017 |
| (22) | Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya | 25 December, 2017 |
| (23) | Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose | 23 January, 2018 |
| (24) | Lala Lajpat Rai | 28 January, 2018 |
| (25) | Shri M.A. Ayyangar | 4 February, 2018 |
| (26) | Smt. Sarojini Naidu | 13 February, 2018 |
| (27) | Shri Morarji Desai | 28 February, 2018 |
| (28) | Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia | 23 March, 2018 |

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.

(ii) FUNCTION TO BID FAREWELL TO OUTGOING PRESIDENT OF INDIA

On 23 July, 2017, a Ceremony to bid farewell to the outgoing President, Shri Pranab Mukherjee was held in the Central Hall of Parliament House. Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan presented a farewell Address on behalf of Members of Parliament, placing on record their respectful and affectionate tributes to Shri Pranab Mukherjee. A 'Signature Book' signed by the Members of Parliament and a silver (gold plated) plaque with Parliament House Replica was also presented by Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha to Shri Pranab Mukherjee.

Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari, Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha addressed the gathering on the occasion. The outgoing President then addressed the distinguished gathering. After the conclusion of the Farewell function tea was arranged for the Outgoing President of India and other dignitaries in Courtyard No.9, Parliament House.

(iii) NATIONAL LEGISLATORS CONFERENCE

National Legislators Conference was held in Parliament House Complex, New Delhi on 10 & 11 March, 2018 under the auspices of the Indian Parliamentary Group. The Theme of the Conference was **"WE FOR DEVELOPMENT"**. The Conference was attended by Members of the Union Cabinet, Members of Parliament and Presiding Officers & Members of State Legislative Assemblies/Councils.

The Conference was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi in the Central Hall of Parliament House on 10 March, 2018. Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha addressed the distinguished gathering after the inauguration of the Conference. Secretary-General, Lok Sabha proposed the Vote of Thanks. A Group Photograph of all delegates was held after the Inauguration Ceremony.

Plenary Session was held on the theme of the Conference. During the Session Shri Amitabh Kant, CEO, Niti Aayog made a presentation on aspirational districts and Shri Suresh Prabhu, Union Minister for Commerce & Industry addressed the august gathering. Dr. M. Thambi Durai, Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Chairperson of the Session made the concluding Remarks.

During the Conference Parallel Sessions were held in on the following topics:

- (i) Role of Legislators in development process; and
- (ii) Optimum utilisation of resources in development.

Shri Prakash Javadekar, Union Minister of Human Resource Development, Shri Kalyan Banerjee, MP and Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, MP chaired the sessions on “Role of Legislators in development process”.

Shri J.P. Nadda, Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Minister of Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Mines, Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, MP and Shri N.K. Premachandran, MP chaired the sessions on “Optimum utilisation of resources in development.”

Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha hosted a Cultural Programme followed by Dinner in honour of the dignitaries/delegates participating in the Conference on 10 March, 2018.

Concluding Session followed by Valedictory Session was held on 11 March, 2018. Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari, Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Shipping and Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation chaired the Concluding Session and addressed the gathering in the Central Hall of Parliament House. During the Valedictory Session, Moderators of parallel Sessions presented a brief report of their respective Sessions. The Resolution proposed by Shri Om Birla, MP was adopted at the Valedictory Session of the Conference. Shri Arun Jaitley, Union Minister for Finance and Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, Vice-President of India and Chairman Rajya Sabha addressed the gathering during the Valedictory Session. Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, Speaker, Lok Sabha presented the Closing Remarks.

The Conference concluded after the lunch on 11 March, 2018.

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. Smt. Mamata Thakur, MP
2. Shri Shivaji Adhalrao Patil, MP
3. Shri Yashwantrao Gadakh, Ex-MP
4. Dr. Tarun Kumar Mandal, Ex-MP
5. Shri Murali Mohan Maganti, MP
6. Shri M. Srinivasa Rao (Avanthi), MP
7. Shri C.P. Joshi, MP
8. Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, MP
9. Dr. K.H. Muniyappa, MP
10. Prof. Sugata Bose, 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 FORMATION OF PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP GROUPS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

In addition to the existing Parliamentary Friendship Group with China, it was decided to form Parliamentary Friendship Groups with European Union, Japan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation and Vietnam. **(listed at Appendix - I)**

VIII MEMBERSHIP

During the year under report, 37 Members of Parliament were enrolled as Members of the Group.

As on 31 March, 2018, the total number of members of the Indian Parliamentary Group are 1486 [sitting Members(LS/RS) are 336 (239 / 97) and Associate Members are 1150].

IX OBITUARY

The Executive Committee have to record with regret the demise of the following Members of the Group during the year 2017-2018:-

1. Ms. J. Jayalalitha, ex-MP and Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
2. Shri Janak Raj Gupta, Ex-MP
3. Shri G. Ganga Reddy, Ex-MP
4. Shri Anil Madhav Dave, MP (RS) & M/O State in M/O Environment, forest & Climate Change
5. Shri Sultan Ahmed, MP (LS)
6. Shri Vinod Khanna, MP (LS)
7. Shri Era Sezhiyan, ex-MP
8. Shri Santosh Mohan Dev, ex-MP
9. Dr. Bhai Mahavir, ex-MP
10. Shri V. Ramanathan, ex-MP
11. Shri Salil Kumar Ganguli, ex-MP
12. Prof. M.G.K, Menon, ex-MP
13. Shri Dipen Ghosh, ex-MP
14. Dr. Mohd. Hashim Kidwai, ex-MP
15. Shri Pyarimohan Mohapatra, ex-MP
16. Dr, Dasari Narayana Rao, ex-MP
17. Shri U.K. Lakshmana Gowda, ex-MP
18. Shri Shabbir Ahmad Salaria, ex-MP
19. Smt. Mohinder Kaur, ex-MP
20. Shri Vishvjit P. Singh, ex-MP
21. Shri Amal Datta, ex-MP
22. Shri Krishna Nand Joshi, ex-MP
23. Smt. Jayaben Shah, ex-MP
24. Shri Shashi Bhushan, ex-MP
25. Shri Ram Singh, ex-MP
26. Shri S.S. Kothari, ex-MP
27. Shri Jayantilal Barot, ex-MP
28. Prof. C. Lakshmananna, ex-MP
29. Shri Jalaludin Ansari, ex-MP
30. Shri M.L. Fotedar, ex-MP
31. Shri Mirza Irshadbaig, ex-MP
32. Shri Sukomal Sen, ex-MP
33. Shri Mohinder Singh Kalyan, ex-MP
34. Shri Raghunath Jha, MP (LS)
35. Shri Khagen Das, ex-MP
36. Dr. Balla Bulli Ramaiah, MP (LS)
37. Smt. Susheela Bangaru Laxman, MP (LS)
38. Shri Mahindra Singh, ex-MP
39. Dr. Jinendra Kumar Jain, ex-MP

X 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, 2018. **(Appendix II to VI).**

XI MEETINGS HELD

(i) Meeting of Executive Committee of Indian Parliamentary Group

During the year 2017-2018, three meeting of the Executive Committee of the Indian Parliamentary Group were held on 28 December, 2017, 19 January, 2018 and 29 January, 2018.. The gist of important decisions of the Executive Committee taken at the meeting are given in **Appendix-VII.**

(ii) Annual General Meeting of Indian Parliamentary Group

During the year 2017-2018, Annual General meeting of the Indian Parliamentary Group was held on 28 December, 2018.

(iii) Meeting of Award Committee

A meeting of Award Committee to select 'Outstanding Parliamentarian' for the years 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 was held at 1600 hours on 25 January, 2018 at the residence of Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha (20, Akbar Road, New Delhi).The Award Committee selected Dr. Najma A. Heptulla, MP (RS) for the year 2013; Shri Hukmdev Narayan Yadav, MP (LS) for the year 2014; Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, MP (RS) for the year 2015; Shri Dinesh Trivedi, MP (LS) for the year 2016 and Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, MP (LS) for the year 2017. The meeting was presided by Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha.

(iv) Meetings of Parliamentary Friendship Groups

(a) India-Vietnam: A Briefing meeting of India-Vietnam Parliamentary Friendship Group headed by Dr. K. Keshava Rao, MP (RS) and President of the Group was held at 1600 hours on Tuesday, 02 January, 2018 in Committee Room 'D', PHA. A representative from Ministry of External Affairs [Director (South)] briefed the Members of the Group on various issues pertaining to India-Vietnam Relations.

(b) India-China: A briefing meeting of India-China Parliamentary Friendship Group headed by Shri Ramen Deka, MP (LS) and President of the Group was held at 1600 hours on Thursday, 04 January, 2018 in Committee Room 'D', PHA. A representative from Ministry of External Affairs [Joint Secretary (EA)] briefed the Members of the Group on various issues pertaining to India-China Relations.

(c) India-Russia: A meeting of India-Russia Parliamentary Friendship Group headed by Smt. Hema Malini, MP (LS) and President of the Group was held with the visiting delegation of the Ministry of Agriculture of Russian Federal led by Mr. Sergey Beletskiy, Deputy Minister of Russian Federation at 1500 hours on 13 February, 2018 in Committee Room 'B', PHA. A representative from Ministry of External Affairs [JS(ERS)] briefed the Members of the Group on various issues pertaining to India-Russia Relations.

(d) India-Republic of Korea: A meeting India-ROK Parliamentary Friendship Group headed by Shri Sunil Kumar Singh, MP (LS) and President of the Group was held with the Korean Delegation led by Hon'ble Song Young gil, President of Republic of Korea-India Parliamentary Friendship Group was held at 1500 hours on Tuesday, 27 February, 2018 in Committee Room No.1, Extension to Parliament House Annexe Building. A representative from Ministry of External Affairs [Joint Secretary (EA)] briefed the Members of the Group on various issues pertaining to India-Republic of Korea Relations.

(e) India-Mongolia: A meeting of India-Mongolia Parliamentary Friendship Group headed by Shri Rattan Lal Kataria, MP (LS) and President of the Group was held with the Minister of Defence of Mongolia at 1700 hours on Thursday, 08 March, 2018 in Committee Room No.1, Extension to Parliament House Building. A representative from Ministry of External Affairs [JS(EA)] briefed the Members of the Group on various issues pertaining to India-Mongolia Relations.

**SNEHLATA SHRIVASTATA
SECRETARY-GENERAL**

**New Delhi
December, 2018**

PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP GROUPS

| Sl. No | Name of Country |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| 1. | CHINA |
| 2. | EUROPEAN UNION |
| 3. | JAPAN |
| 4. | MONGOLIA |
| 5. | REPUBLIC OF KOREA |
| 6. | RUSSIA |
| 7. | VIETNAM |

Indian Parliamentary Group
340, P.H.A New Delhi -110001

Receipt and Payment Account for the Year Ended March 31, 2018

| PARTICULARS | Sch. No. | Amount (Rs.) | Amount (Rs.) |
|---|----------|-------------------|--------------------|
| | | 2017-18 | 2016-17 |
| Receipts | | | |
| Opening Balances: | | | |
| State Bank of India | | 4,741,140 | 8,294,535 |
| Sub Total | | 4,741,140 | 8,294,535 |
| Receipts during the year | | | |
| Fees Receipts | 4 | 18,500 | 5,500 |
| Other Receipts | 5 | 738 | 299,586 |
| Fixed Deposit During the year | | 5,302,359 | 126,548,447 |
| Sub Total | | 5,321,595 | 126,853,533 |
| Total | | 10,062,735 | 135,148,068 |
| Payments during the year | | | |
| Photographs | | 2,059 | 235,120 |
| Refreshment & Dinner | | 359,263 | 332,098 |
| Bank Charges | | 649 | 863 |
| Air Fare Charges | | 256,245 | - |
| National Conference of Women Legislators | | - | 14,741,172 |
| Broad Band Charges | | 127,440 | - |
| Honorarium Payment for Cultural Programme | | 150,000 | - |
| Other Exp | | 43,461 | 29,234 |
| Legal & Professional Charges | | 100,890 | 68,441 |
| Fixed Deposits | | 5,000,000 | 115,000,000 |
| | | 6,040,007 | 130,406,928 |
| Closing Balances: | | | |
| State Bank of India | | 4,022,728 | 4,741,140 |
| Sub Total | | 4,022,728 | 4,741,140 |
| Total | | 10,062,735 | 135,148,068 |



Indian Parliamentary Group
340, P.H.A New Delhi -110001

Income and Expenditure Account as on the date 31st March 2018

| Expenditure | 2017-18 | 2016-17 | Income | 2017-18 | 2016-17 |
|---|-----------|------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Photographs | 2,059 | 235,120 | Annual Membership Fees | 18,500 | 5,500 |
| Refreshment & Dinner | 359,263 | 332,098 | Interest on bank balance | 736 | 8,010 |
| Bank Charges | 649 | 863 | Interest on FD | 658,144 | 602,915 |
| National Conference of Women Legislators | - | 14,741,172 | Excess of Expenditure over Income | 362,627 | 14,790,503 |
| Air Fare Charges | 256,245 | - | | | |
| Legal & Professional | 100,890 | 68,441 | | | |
| Broad Band Charges | 127,440 | - | | | |
| Honorarium Payment for Cultural Programme | 150,000 | - | | | |
| Other Expenses | 43,461 | 29,234 | | | |
| | 1,040,007 | 15,406,928 | | 1,040,007 | 15,406,928 |

For S. S. Kothari Mehta & Co.

Chartered Accountants

Firm's Registration No. 000756N



Naveen Aggarwal

Partner

Membership No. 094380

Place : New Delhi

Dated : 4th Oct. 2018

For Indian Parliamentary Group

SECRETARY-GENERAL
INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

Indian Parliamentary Group
PARLIAMENT HOUSE ANNEXE, ROOM NO. 340, DELHI, 110001

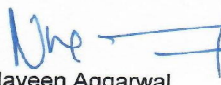
BALANCE SHEET AS AT MARCH 31, 2018

| Particulars | Sch. No. | 2017-18 | 2016-17 |
|---|----------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <u>SOURCES OF FUNDS</u> | | | |
| Surplus | 1 | 56,827,363 | 60,642,929 |
| Special Reserve | 2 | 3,452,939 | - |
| TOTAL (Rs.) | | 60,280,302 | 60,642,929 |
| <u>Investments</u> | | | |
| Fixed Deposit | | 55,000,000 | 55,000,000 |
| | | 55,000,000 | 55,000,000 |
| <u>Current Assets</u> | | | |
| Cash at Bank | | 4,022,728 | 4,741,140 |
| TDS Recoverable | | 1,259,815 | 904,030 |
| | 3 | 5,282,543 | 5,645,170 |
| <u>Less: Current Liabilities</u> | | | |
| V.N Gadgil Award | | 2,241 | 2,241 |
| | | 2,241 | 2,241 |
| Net Current Assets | | 60,280,302 | 60,642,929 |
| TOTAL (Rs.) | | 60,280,302 | 60,642,929 |

Accounting Policies & Notes to Accounts.

Schedules Referred to above form an integral part of Balance Sheet

As per our report of even date attached
For **S. S. Kothari Mehta & Co.**
Chartered Accountants
Firm's Registration No. 000756N


Naveen Aggarwal
Partner
Membership No. 094380
Place : New Delhi
Dated : 6th Oct. 2018




* For Indian Parliamentary Group
SECRETARY-GENERAL
INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

S S KOTHARI MEHTA & CO
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Plot No. 68,
 Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-III,
 New Delhi-110020
 Phone : +91-11-4670 8888
 E-mail : delhi@sskmin.com
 Website: www.sskmin.com

FORM NO. 10BB
 [See rule 16CC]

Audit report under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961, in the case of any fund or trust or institution or any university or other educational institution or any hospital or other medical institution referred to in sub-clause (iv) or sub-clause (v) or sub-clause (vi) or sub-clause (via) of section 10(23C).

- (i) We have examined the Balance Sheet as at **31.03.2018** and the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended on that date attached herewith of **Indian Parliamentary Group**.
- (ii) We certify that the Balance Sheet and the Income and Expenditure Account are in agreement with the books of account maintained by the head office at **Room No. 338-340, Parliamentary House Annexe, New Delhi -110001**.
- (iii) (a) We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of the audit.
- (b) In our opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the head office institution of the trust so far as appears from our examination of the books of account.
- (c) In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the information given to us, the said accounts read with notes thereon, give a true and fair view -
- (1) In the case of the Balance Sheet, of the state of affairs of the institution as at **31.03.2018** and
- (2) In the case of Income and Expenditure Account deficit for the year ended on that date.

The prescribed particulars are annexed herewith.

For S.S. KOTHARI MEHTA & CO.
 Chartered Accountants
 Firm's Registration No. 000756N



[Signature]
Naveen Aggarwal
 Partner
 Membership No. 094380

Place: New Delhi

Date: **4th Oct. 2018**

INVESTMENTS OF INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY GROUP**FDs with State Bank of India (PHA)**

| <u>Amount</u> | <u>Date of issue</u> | <u>FD Receipt No.</u> | <u>Date of Maturity</u> |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 5,00,00,000/- | 07.06.2016 | 35820538650 | 07.06.2019 |
| 50,00,000/- | 18.05.2017 | 36890258084 | 18.05.2018 |
| <u>5,50,00,000/-</u> | | | |

**Important decisions of the Executive Committee of the Group
for the year 2017-2018**

| Date | Subject | Decision |
|-------------------|---|--|
| 28.12.2017 | Annual Report of Indian Parliamentary Group for the year 2016-2017 | The Committee adopted the Annual Report for the year 2016-2017 of the Indian Parliamentary Group together with audited statements of accounts |
| 19.01.2018 | National Legislators Conference | The Committee was informed about the proposal to organise a 'National Legislators Conference' under the auspices of Indian Parliamentary to be held on 10 & 11 March, 2018 at New Delhi. |
| | Amendments of Rules of Indian Parliamentary Group | The Committee considered and approved the Amendments of Rules of the IPG that the strength of the Executive Committee of the Indian Parliamentary Group has been increased from 16 Members to 20 Members. |
| | Amendment in Rules of Parliamentary Friendship Groups | The Committee considered and revised the Rules of Parliamentary Friendship Group with other countries that the composition of each Parliamentary Friendship Group has been reduced from 22 to 15 Members i.e. 10 members from Lok Sabha and 5 members from Rajya Sabha. |
| 29.01.2018 | Conferring of "Outstanding Parliamentarian Award" for the years 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 & 2017 | The President of the Group informed the members of the Committee that the Award Committee of the Indian Parliamentary Group have unanimously recommended Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptullah, MP (RS); Shri Hukmdev Narayan Yadav, MP (LS); Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, MP (RS); Shri Dinesh Trivedi, MP (LS) and Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, MP (LS) for the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award for the years 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 respectively. The Committee accepted the recommendation of the Award Committee. |
