
Minister G.L.Peiris meets with senior Indian Government personalities during his visit to New Delhi

Monday, 18 October 2010

Last Updated Tuesday, 19 October 2010

External Affairs Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris, having travelled to Delhi to accompany President Mahinda Rajapaksa for the Closing Ceremony of the Commonwealth Games and for the bilateral discussions with the Indian Prime Minister, used the opportunity to also meet with several other senior Indian Government personalities. On the morning of 14th October, Minister Peiris met with his Indian counterpart, External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna, for a very cordial and constructive review of bilateral relations. The discussion between the two Ministers served as a curtain raiser to the forthcoming session of the India & Sri Lanka Joint Commission that will take place, when Minister Krishna visits Sri Lanka later this year.

On 15th October, Prof. Peiris called on Mr. P. Chidambaram, Minister of Home Affairs of India. The Home Minister and Prof. Peiris discussed the progress with regard to the programme of 50,000 houses to be built in the formerly conflicted affected areas, through grant funds from India. Minister Peiris briefed that the allocation of State lands for the construction of 1,000 houses in a cluster format for the use of widows or single headed families, was well underway. The rest of the programme would relate both to the construction of 32,000 houses on an owner driven basis on private land, as well as to the repair of 17,000 damaged houses. Later that day, Minister Peiris met with Mr. Kapil Sibal, Minister of Human Resource Development of India to discuss collaboration in the education sphere, especially in relation to the assistance being received from India towards the realization of the vision of President Rajapaksa, for the coming into being of a Trilingual Society in Sri Lanka. Prof. Peiris expressed his appreciation of the ready assurance by Minister Sibal, that India would strongly be engaged in this effort. Prof. Peiris's third bilateral meeting on that day was the Indian Minister of Commerce & Industry, Mr. Anand Sharma. The two Ministers included in their discussion issues pertaining to the further strengthening of the trade and economic relationship between the two nations. They agreed that the forthcoming establishment of a Forum of Chief Executive Officers, which would include leading entrepreneurs of both countries, would assist both to iron out any problems and also to identify a sound and mutually beneficial path for the years ahead. Minister Peiris concluded his engagements on the 15th by delivering the prestigious R .K. Mishra Memorial Lecture under the auspices of the Observer Research Foundation, on the theme of "Growth, Equity and Security: Constitutional Imperatives for South Asia". Prof. Peiris addressed representatives of leading media institutions, think-tanks and the diplomatic community in New Delhi at the Sri Lanka High Commission on the 16th morning concerning the new era of opportunities that has now dawned in Sri Lanka, with the end of the conflict situation. After introductory comments, Minister Peiris replied to questions raised and clarified and elaborated on several issues pertaining to Indo & Sri Lanka relations, the development activities in North and East and the strategy for solving political and economic issues.

Sri Lanka High Commission New Delhi

16.10.2010