**MINISTRY**

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION**

 **REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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**1732.Mr M Hlengwa (IFP) to ask the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation:**

Whether there were any new agreements that were signed by the Deputy Minister, Ms K C Mashego – Dlamini, and the Indian Minister of State External Affairs, Mr V Muraleedharan relating to trade, commercial engagement, foreign direct investment and partnerships between India and the Republic from 25 April 2022 to 27 April 2022 (details furnished); if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the details?

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**REPLY**

There were no new agreements signed between South Africa and India during the recent visit by Deputy Minister, Ms K C Mashego-Dlamini to New Delhi, India.

Deputy Minister K C Mashego-Dlamini represented the Minister of International Relations, Dr Pandor at the 7th edition of the Raisina Dialogue held from 25 – 27 April 2022 in New Delhi. The Minister, who had participated in the 2020 event, accepted the 2022 invitation but the event was postponed due to scheduling difficulties, hence the attendance by Deputy Minister Mashego-Dlamini.

The Raisina Dialogue is India’s premier conference on geopolitics and geo-economics focussed on addressing critical contemporary issues facing the global community and attended by leaders in politics, business, media and civil society. It is co-hosted by the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) in partnership with the Indian Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

Within the mentioned context, Deputy Minister Mashego-Dlamini paid a courtesy visit on the co-host of the Raisina Dialogue, i.e. the Indian Minister of State of External Affairs, Mr Vellamvelly Muraleedharan on 26 April 2022. Courtesy meetings in diplomacy are customary and provide an opportunity to, among others, verbally discuss e.g. issues of bilateral interest, especially in view of the Strategic Partnership status between South Africa and India.