

BRIAN J. MAST, FLORIDA
CHAIRMAN

JAMES LANGENDERFER
STAFF DIRECTOR



GREGORY W. MEEKS, NEW YORK
RANKING MEMBER

SAJIT GANDHI
DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

One Hundred Nineteenth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Foreign Affairs
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
www.foreignaffairs.house.gov

March 13, 2025

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Rubio:

On February 15th, 2025, the so-called “Department of Government Efficiency” tweeted a list of programs it claimed to have cancelled, including “\$21 million for voter turnout in India”—a claim that President Trump has repeatedly cited as an example of wasteful foreign assistance.

The President’s statements, including his unsubstantiated claim that the Biden Administration used these funds to “get somebody else elected,” ignited a political firestorm in India. His remarks dominated front-page news and were seized upon by key Indian political figures as supposed evidence of U.S. interference.

USAID has a long history in India—helping to establish institutions like the flagship Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, collaborating on public health initiatives, and advancing small-scale development innovations. Yet, these inflammatory statements have cast unwarranted suspicion on USAID’s work, jeopardizing a decades-long development partnership.

Allowing misinformation about U.S. foreign assistance to go unchallenged damages American credibility, undermines our ability to operate globally, and threatens relationships with key international counterparts. India is a key strategic partner and sustaining this relationship requires skilled diplomacy.

Despite multiple requests from the Committee—on February 19, February 21, and February 24—the State Department has yet to provide clarification regarding this funding. Given DOGE’s claims and the President’s repeated statements, the Department of State and USAID, where you currently serve as Acting Administrator, should be able to promptly provide accurate information about the nature and scope of this activity.

We request that you provide answers to the following inquiries no later than March 21st, 2025:

1. Please explain the details surrounding the \$21 million grant to India, including the dates of the grant, the contract information, the implementing partner, the proposed activities, and the dates of the activity. Please also provide any documentation, including the Congressional Notification number and date the CN was submitted.
2. Please explain the process by which DOGE cancelled these programs, including the timeline of how the cancellation was communicated to relevant stakeholders and implementing partners.

The Foreign Affairs Committee has an important oversight interest in determining the truth in this matter, as well as ensuring that all decisions regarding U.S. foreign assistance programs are made in compliance with the appropriate laws and regulations and with due regard for congressional intent.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Gregory W. Meeks
Ranking Member
House Foreign Affairs Committee



Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on South and Central Asia

cc: Peter W. Marocco, Director of Foreign Assistance, U.S. Department of State
Deputy Administrator-Designate, U.S. Agency for International Development