

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1703

ANSWERED ON:29.11.2000

VISIT OF RUSSIAN PRESIDENT

ANANTA NAYAK;BHERU LAL MEENA;BIR SING MAHATO;JASKAUR MEENA;MADHAVRAO SCINDIA;RUDRAGOUDA PATIL;SURESH KURUP;T. GOVINDAN;TARACHAND BHAGORA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of issues discussed during the recent visit of Russian President to India;
- (b) the outcome thereof;
- (c) the salient features of the agreements/MOUs signed on the occasion;
- (d) whether the issue of Soviet debt burden on India was also discussed;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof including the quantum of debt owed by India;
- (f) whether the Russian President mooted the idea of Asian Triangle; (g) if so, the salient features thereof; and, (h) the extent to which the visit helped in creating mutual understanding on major National/International issues?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) & (b) His Excellency Mr. Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, paid a State Visit to India from October 2-5, 2000. During the visit, the entire gamut of Indo-Russian bilateral relations and regional and international issues of mutual interest and concern were discussed. Both sides reiterated that Indo-Russian relations were time tested and characterised by continuity, trust and mutual understanding. It was noted that these were based on shared perception and mutuality of interests. The two sides also underlined the national consensus in both countries on the need to further intensify and strengthen their relations.

(c) A total of 17 Agreements/bilateral documents were signed during the visit. The most significant of these is the Declaration on Strategic Partnership between India and the Russian Federation. The document defines the broad contours of Indo-Russian bilateral relations in the 21st century. The other Agreements were in the field of legal affairs and justice, postal communications, trade and economic cooperation including processing and trade of rough natural diamonds and precious metals, energy sector, science and technology, culture, military technical cooperation and peaceful uses of atomic energy. A Joint Statement on the visit was also issued.

(d) & (e) During discussions with the President of the Russian Federation, the question of trade and economic cooperation through the rupee repayment track was touched upon. The subject will be further discussed during the 7th session of the Indo Russian Inter Governmental Commission for Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation to be held in Moscow in January 2001. The `Soviet debt burden on India` at present is about Rs.18,683 crores.

(f) No Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

(h) The State Visit to India by the President of the Russian Federation in October 2000 elevated our bilateral ties to a qualitatively new level. It has imparted a new vibrancy to Indo-Russian partnership. The Declaration on Strategic Partnership between India and the Russian Federation is a document of cardinal significance governing this partnership in the new millennium. During discussions, both sides noted a close identity of views on regional and international issues.