

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:155

ANSWERED ON:07.03.2001

INDO-IRAQ TIES

DUMPA MARY VIJAYAKUMARI;SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether an Iraqi delegation led by its Vice President including the Iraqi Oil Minister visited New Delhi recently;
- (b) if so, the agreements signed on the occasion including the terms of the agreements; and
- (c) the quantity of oil and food received by India and Iraq respectively under the oil for food programme?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

- (a) Yes, Sir. An Iraqi delegation led by its Vice President, Taha Yassin Ramadhan, which also included the Oil Minister of Iraq visited New Delhi from November 27 to December 1, 2000.
- (b) During the visit of Vice-President, an Agreement on Economic, Technical, Scientific and Cultural Co-operation between the two countries was signed. Also an MOU between the Iraqi Federation of Industry and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) was finalized.
- (c) No exchange of foodgrains against oil has taken place so far. However, an understanding has been reached in principle about the possibility of a Counter Trade Arrangement which would enable Iraq to effect import of certain food items (especially wheat) against export of crude oil and oil products.