

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:592

ANSWERED ON:25.07.2001

VISIT OF RUSSIAN FOREIGN MINISTER/DEPUTY PREMIER

MADHAVRAO SCINDIA;RENUKA CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Russian foreign minister/deputy premier visited New Delhi recently:

(b) if so, the details of issues discussed; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) Yes, Sir. H.E. Mr. Igor Ivanov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, paid an official visit to India from May 3-5, 2001.

(b) & (c) During this visit, Mr. Ivanov had detailed discussions with the External Affairs Minister on the entire gamut of Indo-Russian bilateral relations, and regional and international issues of mutual concern. Mr. Ivanov had separate meetings with the President, the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister who is also the co-Chairman of the Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission for Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation. The visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation provided an opportunity to both sides to continue the bilateral political dialogue that was initiated during the State visit to India by President of the Russian Federation, H.E. Mr. Vladimir Putin, in October 2000. During all his meetings, it was reiterated that relations between India and the Russian Federation are characterised by continuity, trust and mutual understanding. Both sides expressed satisfaction with the forward movement in bilateral relations in all fields pursuant to the decisions taken during the State Visit of President Putin to India. It was mutually agreed that the endeavour of the two sides in future would be to give greater depth, span and content to Indo-Russian bilateral relations, particularly in the economic sphere, in order to strengthen the strategic partnership between the two countries.