

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2651

ANSWERED ON:08.08.2001

VISIT OF TEAM TO CHINA

GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ;IQBAL AHMED SARADGI;Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether a team of Indian Parliamentarians, Trade Unionists and Industrialists visited China recently to assess its economic reforms;
- (b) if so, whether the team has given its assessment report;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the details of discussions held by the team with their Chinese counterpart; and
- (e) the outcome thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a)-(e): Dr. Najma Heptulla, Deputy Chairperson, Rajya Sabha led a Parliamentary-cum-business-cum-trade union delegation to China from July 1-7, 2001 at the invitation of Mr. Li Peng, Chairman of the National People's Congress of China.

The purpose of the visit was to further develop contacts between Parliamentarians, industry and other people-to-people exchanges with a view to promote friendship, deepen understanding and expand mutually beneficial exchanges in economic and other fields between India and China.

Deputy Chairperson, Rajya Sabha called on NPC Chairman, Li Peng and Prime Minister Zhu Rongji. Both conveyed satisfaction at the improving relations between the two countries and their sound development in recent times. Premier Zhu stated that the need for promoting Sino-Indian cooperation far outweighed existing differences between the two countries. He also spoke of the importance of furthering economic and trade relations between India and China. NPC Chairman Li Peng noted that preserving and developing healthy and stable good neighbourly cooperative relationship based on Panchsheel was not only in mutual interest but also beneficial for peace and stability of Asia and the world.

Both sides agreed to strengthen bilateral relations, including economic relations.