

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6414
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2002
VISIT OF DEPUTY PM OF MAURITIUS
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Deputy Prime Minister of Mauritius visited India in April, 2002;
- (b) If so, the details of the talks held;
- (c) whether the trade relations between the two countries commensurate with the bilateral ties;
- (d) if not, whether the expansion of economic and trade ties between the two countries also figured during the discussions; and
- (e) if so, the decisions taken to expand the trade between the two countries?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

- (a) Yes Sir. Mr. Paul Raymond Berenger, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance of Mauritius visited India during April 6-12, 2002.
- (b) Mr. Berenger called on the Prime Minister. He had meetings with Ministers of External Affairs, Home, Finance, Human Resources Development and Defence during the visit. During these meetings, bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest to both countries were discussed.
- (c) Yes Sir. However, potential for expansion of trade and economic relations exists. A Trade Agreement has been signed with Mauritius in 2000. Bilateral trade in 2000-2001 was Rs.9420 million. Indian exports to Mauritius was Rs.9150 million and imports from Mauritius was Rs.270 million.
- (d) During the bilateral meetings intensification of economic cooperation and expansion of trade between the two countries were discussed.
- (e) In view of the fact that Mauritius has easier access to the markets of United States of America, European Union and some of the regions of Africa, both countries agreed to work jointly to promote trade and to take advantage of the available opportunities in these markets by using Mauritius as a spring board.