

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:504
ANSWERED ON:17.07.2002
INDO IRAN FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM
SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India and Iran has agreed to cooperate in combating terrorism in the region and stressed on the need for early finalization of comprehensive UN convention to fight the menace;
- (b) if so, the details thereof ; and
- (c) the details of the steps taken/proposed to be taken to further strengthen the relations between the two including business ties?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a)- (b) India and Iran share concerns on the menace of terrorism. The Tehran Declaration signed during Prime Minister's visit to Iran in April 2001 condemned terrorism in all its forms. The Declaration also condemned states that aid, abet and directly support international terrorism and extremism and called on the international community to intensify its efforts to combat terrorism. In the Declaration, India and Iran reiterated their resolve to work to strengthen the international consensus and legal regimes against terrorism, including early finalisation of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

During the recent visit of Mr. Hasan Roothani, Secretary, Supreme National Security Council of Iran, in June 2002, India and Iran denounced and condemned terrorism in all its forms and agreed to cooperate for combating international terrorism in the region. They reiterated their resolve to work to strengthen the international consensus and legal regimes against terrorism, emphasizing the need for early finalisation of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

(c) India and Iran have had close and regular interaction aimed at expansion and diversification of bilateral ties, including business ties. This has been achieved through high-level political exchanges, regular meetings of Joint Business Council between the two countries, and through the forum of the India-Iran Joint Commission. The 12th meeting of the Joint Commission was held in May 2002 which reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations in the fields of petroleum and natural gas, trade, industry, transport and communications, agriculture and rural development, culture, consular, science and technology and information. A meeting of Joint Business Council was also held on the occasion.