

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:999  
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2000  
FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO MOSCOW  
MADHAVRAO SCINDIA

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

- (a) Whether he had lately paid a visit to Moscow for talks on long term collaboration in defence, trade and economic affairs; and  
(b) if so, the outcome of the talks?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a) & (b). I paid an official visit to the Russian Federation from May 23-25, 1999. During the visit, I had a telephonic conversation with then President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Boris Yeltsin. I also met Deputy Prime Minister Valentina Matvienko, then Secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin, then Special Envoy of the Russian President to the Balkans Viktor Chernomyrdin and the Mayor of the City of Moscow Yuri Luzhkov. I had a detailed exchange of views on bilateral, regional and international issues with my counterpart, Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov. During these discussions, both sides underlined that Indo-Russian relations were time-tested and based on continuity, trust and mutual understanding. Our interaction with the Russian Federation is comprehensive and multifaceted. Further measures to strengthen and develop our bilateral cooperation in all areas were touched upon. It was agreed that a Declaration on Strategic Partnership between India and the Russian Federation would be signed at the next Indo-Russian Summit.