

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3438

ANSWERED ON:11.12.2002

INDO-RUSSIAN TIES

C. SREENVAASAN;GADDE RAMAMOCHAN;M.V.V.S MURTHI;PUTTASWAMY GOWDA

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

- (a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item regarding 'Indo-Russian ties poised for quantum jump' appearing in the Hindu dated November 29, 2002;
- (b) if so, the issues discussed with the Russian authorities;
- (c) the outcome thereof; and
- (d) the details of bilateral agreements signed between the two countries during the recent visit of Russian President to India?

**Answer**

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

- (a) Yes.
- (b) & (c) Details of the discussions held and outcome thereof are placed at Annexure I.
- (d) During the visit of the President of the Russian Federation to India from 3-5 December 2002, the two countries signed 6 official documents. Two commercial documents were also signed between the Canara Bank of India and the Vnesheconom Bank of Russia. Details of the official documents are placed at Annexure II. Annexure I

The President of the Russian Federation, H.E. Mr. Vladimir Putin paid a state visit to India from 3-5 December 2002. President Putin met the President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, who also hosted a banquet in his honour. The Vice President of India Shri B.S. Shekhawat, the Deputy Prime Minister Shri L.K. Advani, the Minister of External Affairs Shri Yashwant Sinha and the Leader of the Opposition Smt. Sonia Gandhi called on President Putin. The Prime Minister of India Shri A. B. Vajpayee and the President of the Russian Federation held talks on a range of bilateral, international and regional issues. Both sides expressed satisfaction regarding the established practice of holding annual meetings at the summit level as well as meetings and exchanges at Ministerial and other levels. Both sides reiterated their determination to continue and further expand the excellent political contacts between the two countries. Both sides shared a positive assessment of the work of the Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation, and noted that energy security was a promising area of cooperation between the two sides. This was demonstrated by the conclusion of an agreement enabling participation of ONGC Videsh Limited in the Sakhalin Oil and Gas Project in the Russian Federation. The progress being made in the implementation of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project was noted with satisfaction, as was the expanded cooperation in the field of military technical cooperation, especially joint research, development and training, as well as inter-services contacts, which were considered consistent with the national security interests of both countries and for the cause of peace and stability in Asia and beyond.

The two sides had an in-depth exchange of views on regional and international issues of mutual interest and concern. They noted a high degree of mutual understanding and close proximity of views. India and Russia, as strategic partners, reaffirmed their commitment to cooperate bilaterally and at international fora on issues relating to strategic stability for the development of a multipolar world based on a new cooperative security order. The relationship of friendship, trust and confidence contributed to Eurasian stability as a whole and was a factor of global significance. Both sides agreed on the necessity of continuing the reform of the United Nations Security Council with a view to making it more representative and effective. The Russian Federation reaffirmed its support to the Republic of India as a deserving and strong candidate for the permanent membership in an expanded United Nations Security Council.

Both sides confirmed that international terrorism, religious extremism, separatism and secessionism, transborder organised crime and illicit traffic in arms and drugs constitute a growing and serious threat to international peace, security and stability. Both countries agreed that there should be no double-standards in the fight against terrorism. Roots of terrorism which lay in their common neighbourhood posed a threat to their security interests. The two sides also exchanged views on issues of Afghanistan, Iraq and Middle East. They stressed the importance of Islamabad implementing in full its obligations and promises to prevent the infiltration of terrorists across the Line of Control into the State of Jammu and Kashmir and at other points across the border, as well as to eliminate the terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan controlled territory as a prerequisite for the renewal of the peaceful dialogue between the two countries to resolve all outstanding issues in a bilateral framework as envisaged in Simla Agreement of 1972 and the Lahore Declaration of 1998.

## Annexure II

1. Delhi Declaration on Further Consolidation of Strategic Partnership between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation signed by Prime Minister of India Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and President of the Russian Federation Mr. Vladimir V. Putin: This document contains the positions of the two sides on issues of bilateral and multilateral interest. During the visit of Mr. Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, to India in October 2000, the two countries had signed a Declaration on Strategic Partnership. In the present document, the two sides have further enunciated their cooperation on political issues of mutual interest and concern. Russia has reaffirmed its support to India as a strong and appropriate candidate for permanent membership in an expanded United Nations Security Council. The two sides have also outlined their common position on terrorism, Afghanistan, Central Asia, Middle East, etc. This document will widen and strengthen the framework of the existing cooperation between India and the Russian Federation in different areas and will contribute to consolidation of their strategic partnership.
2. Joint Declaration on Strengthening and Enhancing Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation signed by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and President Vladimir V. Putin: The document sets out the ideas of the two countries on further strengthening and enhancing economic, scientific and technological cooperation between the two countries. The two sides have decided to undertake several measures in this direction, including: Creation of a favourable environment for bilateral investment and its promotion and protection; and enabling business organizations to get the full support of financial institutions in their trade and investment exchanges. This would include expediting the opening of the branches of Indian commercial banks in Russia and vice-versa. Cooperation in this sector would include human resource development; strengthening transportation links and infrastructure in different modes, within and between the two countries, in order to support increased flow of traffic in goods and services, as well as tourism and travel. Special importance will be attached to registering forward movement on bilateral and trilateral consultations to operationalize the North-South International Transport Corridor. Attention will also be paid to maintain effective communication links, especially in electronic and telecommunication fields; streamlining customs administration to facilitate trade growth; and harmonizing national standardization and certification regulations relevant to trade and investment. This would encompass exchanges of empowered delegations representing the regulatory bodies of the two countries. Such cooperation would also focus on removing technical barriers to trade between the two countries; putting in place an efficient visa regime for business exchanges; encouraging active interaction between the insurance sectors of the two countries; exploring the possibilities of establishing a joint venture fund to help start up new enterprises; and consistent with bilateral agreements, encouraging economic interaction at the regional level.
3. Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on Cooperation in Combating Terrorism by Minister of External Affairs Shri Jaswant Sinha and Mr. Igor Ivanov, Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation: Under this agreement, the two countries will set up a Joint Working Group on Combating International Terrorism. It will be an inter-agency group on both sides and will be coordinated by their respective Foreign Offices.
4. Protocol between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on Protection and Use of Intellectual Property Rights to the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on Scientific and Technological Cooperation dated 30 June 1994 signed by Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, Minister of Human Resource Development and S&T and Mr. Ilya Klebanov, Minister of Industry and S&T : Under the Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation of 1994, the two countries had to decide on the issue of intellectual property rights on the results of joint work in S&T field. The objective of this Protocol is therefore to deal with the issues of effective and proper acquisition, distribution, protection, sharing or transferring of intellectual property rights, created in the process of joint activity in the framework of the 1994 bilateral Science and Technology agreement between the two countries.
5. Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the field of Telecommunications between the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Communications and Informatization of the Russian Federation by Shri Pramod Mahajan, Minister of Communications and IT and Mr. L. D. Reiman, Minister of Communications and Informatization: Under this MoU, the Ministries of Communications of the two countries will exchange information on telecom policy and regulatory issues, search for technical solution to achieve effectiveness in the telecom sector, develop and apply advanced technologies in the field of telecom, and exchange experts and share training facilities in this sector.
6. Protocol between the Government of the State of Karnataka of the Republic of India and the Samara Region Administration of the Russian Federation on trade, economic, scientific, technological and cultural cooperation signed by Shri S. M. Krishna, Chief Minister of Karnataka and Mr. K. A. Titov, Governor of the Samara Region: This Protocol has been signed under the framework of the Agreement on Cooperation between the States and Union Territories of India and the Regions of Russia which was signed in October 2000. Karnataka and Samara Region will, in accordance with the laws of the two countries, promote cooperation in trade, economic, scientific, technological and cultural fields, as well as in education, sports and tourism sectors.