

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6865
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2003
VISIT OF BUSINESS DELEGATION OF SAUDI ARABIA
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a business delegation from Saudi Arabia visited India in December, 2002 and expressed their keenness to do business in India;
- (b) if so, the field in which the Saudi Arabia intend to invest in India;
- (c) whether any concrete proposals have been discussed and decision taken; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

- (a) Yes, Sir. A ten-member delegation led by Mr. Ziad B. Al-Bassam, Chairman, Small Enterprises Support Committee of Jeddah Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Saudi Arabia visited India at the invitation of the National Small Industries Corporation Ltd. (NSIC) during December 19-25, 2002. The objective of the delegation was to understand the system of support to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in India and also to explore the opportunities for technological & business alliances with Indian Enterprises.
- (b) The fields considered for cooperation between NSIC and Jeddah Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Saudi Arabia include, inter-alia, the following:-
 - Carrying out feasibility/opportunity study for SMEs.
 - Identification of small enterprises and arranging partnership with Indian Enterprises.
 - Exchange of Sector specific technology and business delegation.
 - Organising exhibitions of Indian SMEs products/projects in Saudi Arabia.
- (c) & (d) A proposal for signing of Joint Action Plan between NSIC and Jeddah Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Saudi Arabia for development of SMEs in Saudi Arabia was discussed during the visit.