

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:508
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2000
INDO-CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN TIES
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the efforts being made to foster closer ties with Central and South American countries; and
- (b) the details of the different Sectors in which these countries are collaborating with India?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) India's ties with all Central and South American countries are warm and friendly. Several high level visits have taken place, including Foreign Office level consultations, which have further enhanced our relations. In recent years, efforts have been made to give a strong economic content to our relationship through the Focus-LAC Programme jointly sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of External Affairs. India also extends cooperation to several countries in the region under its Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme. Cultural activities are promoted through such agencies as the Department of Culture of the Ministry of HRD and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations.

(b) Collaboration between India and the countries of the region cover wide-ranging sectors including agriculture, health, science & technology, non-conventional energy resources and railways. Much of the collaboration takes place under our ITEC programme which provides for sending of experts to these countries and training of foreign personnel in India.