

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:44  
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2000  
INDIA-ISRAEL TIES  
M.V.V.S MURTHI;SHYAMA SINGH

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

- (a) whether he and Home Minister made a visit to Israel recently;
- (b) if so, the details of different sectors for which discussions were held between the two countries;
- (c) the outcome of the discussions, sector-wise;
- (d) whether Israel is likely to transfer any advanced technology to India;
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the likely gains therefrom; and
- (f) the further steps proposed for better diplomatic relations between the two countries ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

- (a) Yes, Sir. External Affairs Minister and Home Minister made separate visits to Israel recently.
- (b) On-going cooperation between India and Israel is multi-faceted, it encompasses areas like trade, economy, investment, agriculture, tourism, culture, science & technology. The main thrust of these visits revolved around improvement of Indo-Israel bilateral relations. It was agreed to establish a dialogue on counter terrorism. Possibilities for cooperation in other fields, including information technology and knowledge based industries were also explored during these visits.
- (c) It was agreed to set up a Ministerial-level Joint Commission which will bring together and monitor, on a continuing basis, various interactions between the two countries.
- (d) & (e) Cooperation between India and Israel includes the areas of science & technology.
- (f) We remain engaged with Israel with a view to broadening the content of our mutually beneficial interactions.