

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:192
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2005
MEET OF JOINT COMMISSION OF INDIA AND IRAQ
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a committee of experts from India and Iraq met in New Delhi to prepare the ground for the first ever meeting of the two countries joint commission after the US-led invasion in 2003;
- (b) if so, whether this joint commission is likely to meet soon and the Iraqi Foreign Minister is likely to visit India;
- (c) if so, the important agreement likely to be signed between the two countries;
- (d) whether both India and Iraq have agreed to improve the trade relations and Iraq has also agreed to help India on oil needs; and
- (e) if so, the extent to which the trade and economic relations between the two countries have improved?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

- (a) No.
- (b) Dates have yet to be finalized for the meeting of the next meeting of the Joint Commission for which the Iraqi Minister of Oil is the Co-Chairman.
- (c) The agenda for the Joint Commission will be considered at a meeting of the technical committee that will meet before the Joint Commission itself meets.
- (d) Yes, both sides wish to enhance trade relations. India's requirements of oil have been projected to Iraq.
- (e) Trade and economic relations have been improving.