

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3249  
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2005  
INDO-SOUTH KOREA TIES  
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

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

- (a) whether India and South Korea have reached agreements on cooperation in various sectors;
- (b) whether South Korea has also signed pacts on visa exemption for diplomatic and official passport holders and also to have trade between the two countries;
- (c) if so, the details of all the signed agreements; and
- (d) the steps proposed to be taken to implement these agreements?

**Answer**

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) During the visit of the President of the Republic of Korea (ROK), Mr. Roh Moo-hyun to India from October 4 to 6, 2004, a Treaty on Extradition and a Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters were signed. Other important agreements signed recently include an Agreement on Visa Exemption for Diplomatic and Official Passport Holders in August 2005, an MoU on Defence Industry and Logistics in September 2005 and an MoU for Cooperation in the Field of Oil and Natural Gas in November 2005.

The Treaty on Extradition provides for the extradition of a person to the other country, who is wanted for prosecution/trial, or imposition or enforcement of punishment for an extraditable offence in that country.

The Treaty on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters provides for mutual cooperation to combat crime, including taking evidence, providing information, documents, records and articles of evidence, executing requests for search and seizure, serving documents and making persons in custody and others to give testimony or assist in investigations.

The Agreement on Visa Exemption for Diplomatic and Official Passport Holders provides for nationals of India and ROK, holding valid diplomatic or official passports to be exempt from the necessity of obtaining the relevant visa.

The objective of the MoU on Defence Industry and Logistics is to promote cooperation between India and ROK in defence industry, production, research and development and procurement of defence material.

The MoU for Cooperation in the Field of Oil and Natural Gas is an umbrella agreement to establish the basis for cooperative institutional relationship and encourage and promote bilateral cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector.

Trade between India and ROK is conducted under the Agreement on Trade Promotion, Economic and Technical Co-operation signed in 1974, under which the two countries, inter alia, provide for the Most Favoured Nation status to each other.

(d) The Treaty of Extradition and the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters have come into effect from June 8, 2005. The Agreement on Visa Exemption for Diplomatic and Official Passport Holders has been implemented with effect from October 3, 2005. The MoU on Defence Industry and Logistics and the MoU on Cooperation in field of Oil and Natural Gas have come into force immediately after the signing and are in the process of implementation.