

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4153
ANSWERED ON:21.12.2005
INDIA-TURKEY BILATERAL TIES
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is contemplating to establish special relations with Turkey ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the status of bilateral trade between the two countries at present;
- (d) whether any special delegation is likely to visit Turkey in the near future;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to give a further fillip to the bilateral relations between the two countries ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a) & (b) : The relations between India and Turkey have traditionally been characterized by warmth and cordiality. As such, establishing special relations with Turkey is not being contemplated.

(c) : Bilateral trade between India and Turkey has shown unprecedented growth in the recent years. During 2004, bilateral trade between the two countries was US \$1179 million. While Indian exports to Turkey in 2004 were US \$ 1043 million, Indian imports amounted to US \$ 136 million.

(d) & (e): No special Indian delegation is likely to visit Turkey in the near future.

(f) : Government has taken various steps to give a further fillip to bilateral relations between the two countries. Ministerial visits from both sides, Parliamentary Exchanges, visits of Military Chiefs and interaction between the National Security Council Secretariats of the two countries are taking place. Foreign Office Consultations are held regularly, most recently, in New Delhi on November 21, 2005. The Turkish Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs is likely to visit India in 2006. Trade and investment are being stimulated through the bilateral Joint Economic Commission and this, together with a direct air-link between the two countries, has served to stimulate business and joint ventures between India and Turkey.